the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

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Take a look at the first issue of Homestead's new literary magazine. Surplus highlights creative artists and reviews events around Fort Wayne.

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Advisory program, Navigation 101, delayed by unfair labor practice

Lawsuit filed by Teachers' Assocation to better working conditions, training

By Joe Janizek
New Editor

An unfair labor practice filed by the teachers' association was the cause of the advisory-free Thursday that students may have noticed the second week of school.

"[The teachers' association] wanted to delay startup of the program until teachers were adequately trained," Mike Schmid, a member of the Southwest Allen County Teachers' Association (SACTA), said.

Following complaints over changes in working conditions resulting from advisory, SACTA filed an unfair labor practice, delaying further advisories until the teachers and the administration could come to an agreement over the program.

"One of the areas of contention was the starting of Navigation 101 from the beginning of the school year without any training for teachers," Schmid said. "It was required that we have twice as many meetings with students, which takes up twice as much class time."

The teachers' association filed the unfair labor practice under a state law which establishes rules for collective bargaining.

"Public Law 217 is the collective bargaining law for teachers, and it requires that school officials follow the formal discussion practice before they change working conditions," Schmid said.

While SACTA was able to comment on the situation, the school's administration was forced to remain

SEE 'ADVISORY,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Ecology teacher, Emily Palmer assists Halle Shine (11) with Navigation 101 during advisory

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Road construction on Covington Road began Sept. 13 and will continue through the end of October.

No end in sight to delays from construction

By Ryan Boylan
Writer

Road construction has been a major problem for student drivers and bus drivers in the Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) district since the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Not only has road work caused delays in the daily commute to school, it has also become a hazard to drivers, especially student drivers with only a few years of driving experience who drive to school every day. Bus drivers have also had to endure complications due to road construction, including the changing of their routes and the changing of students' bus schedules as a result of the extra time that must be taken to avoid construction.

"It's changed a lot of routes," Glenda Harmeyer, a SACS bus driver, said. "I have a friend that has no time between secondary and elementary because she has to go so far out of her way for routes."

While it poses as a nuisance to bus drivers, road construction has caused several problems for students and parents that utilize the bus as a means of transportation to and from school. The inconsistency in the schedules of the construction workers means inconsistency for the bus drivers and their pick-up times.

"The road construction affects students by changing routes and changing times," Dave Rarick, Director of Transportation for SACS, said. "But the road construction groups that we've been working with have

SEE 'CONSTRUCTION,' PAGE 2A

and THEN THERE were

Semi-finalists announced for National Merit Scholar

By Joe Janizek
New Editor

Despite the decline in the number of National Merit Scholarship semifinalists this year, Homestead students did as well on the PSAT this year as in previous years, according to administrative sources.

This year only two students from Homestead were semifinalists to receive a National Merit Scholarship. This number has decreased from last year, when five Homestead students made the cut to be semifinalists. Students became eligible to receive the scholarship based on their performance on the Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).

"The cut off score [to be a semifinalist] was 212 this year," Amy Hamilton, guidance counselor, said.

Nick Ruhrold and Solomon Lin were the only two students from Homestead to score at or above 212 on the PSAT. Statewide, 325 students were able to achieve the necessary score.

While the decrease in semifinalists may appear to indicate a more mediocre year on the test for Homestead, Hamilton disagrees.

"We had several kids right on the bubble who only missed the cut by one or two points," Hamilton said. "We also had 15

SEE 'SCHOLARS,' PAGE 2A

Nick Ruhold (12) and Solomon Lin (12) have qualified as National Merit Scholarhip semifinalist from their PSAT scores.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

School board to vote on weighted grades next week

By Laura Zeng
Writer

The school board will be voting on whether or not to adopt a special grading scale for Advanced Placement (AP) courses at Homestead. The plans for the proposed grading system were presented to Southwest Allen County's school board on September 21, and the board will make its final decision on the matter on October 5. The details of the grading system will not be available to the public until then.

In previous years, all AP courses at Homestead used the same grading scale as regular and honors courses. The new proposed grading scale changes the grading scale so that students can earn higher letter grades for lower percentages. By doing so, Homestead avoids formally weighting grades.

"Our system is different, because we're using a different scale, and [our students'] transcripts won't indicate weights," Tom Maher, Social Studies department chair, said. "[This] gives our students an advantage when applying for college and academic scholarships."

In addition to helping students with the college application process, the new grading scale also encourages students to take more AP classes, according to those in support of the plan.

"According to a state representative, a lot of students at Homestead could be in AP classes, but aren't choosing AP classes," T. J. McCombs, Math department chair, said. "We need something to entice [those stu

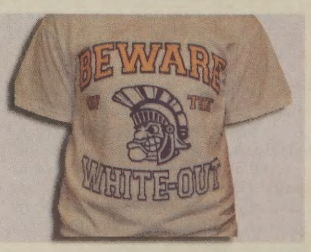
SEE 'WEIGHTED GRADES,' PAGE 2A

HOMECOMING

Dress up days, football game, dance highlight annual spirit week

Preparations have been made for this year's Homecoming festivities. The week leading up to the game, students may participate in a variety of dress up days: Monday is flannel day, Tuesday tie-die, Wednesday is neon and Thursday is superhero day. On Friday, students are encouraged to wear their White-out Homecoming shirts, which are available from the backroom during lunch for $10. A pep rally with friendly grade competition and athletic recognition will conclude the day.

After the school day ends Friday, the Spartans will face off Norwell at 7 p.m. A dance will begin at 8 p.m. A DJ will provide the music until 11:30 p.m.



Phil Downs replaces retired Nancy Carey

New assistant superintendent focuses on academic curriculum

By Laura Zeng
Writer

Southwest Allen County Schools has a new assistant superintendent this year. The district has hired Philip Downs to replace the retired former assistant superintendent Nancy Carey.

"[Carey] felt like it was time to retire," Principal Rick Smith said. "It was a hard decision for her to leave...

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Assistant superintendent Phil Downs is the newest addition to the administrative building. He replaced Nancy Carey who retired at the end of last school year.

[but] she keeps in touch with the central office and with Downs."

Downs was selected by the central office and the school board over the summer of 2010. He started work on July 14.

"The school board was unanimous in choosing Downs," John Bloom, school board president, said. "We all believed that he was the best qualified for the position."

As assistant superintendent, Downs focuses on the academic curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12 and on ensuring that the curriculum meets state and national standards. He also oversees the ALPHA program. Downs jokes that he basically does "everything the superintendent doesn't want to do."

The position opened after former assistant superintendent Nancy Carey retired at the end of last year.

"The job opened, and I was interested. Southwest Allen County has a good reputation, I knew people who work [in the district] and it seemed like an exciting place to work," Downs said.

As of now, Downs plans on "getting to know everyone and emphasizing what Homestead does well." However, as of now, he does not have specific changes in mind.

"It's too early to assume that I know the district," Downs said. "Southwest Allen is blessed to have a large number of people who know what they're doing, and I'm learning by watching."

SEE 'DOWNS,' PAGE 2A

District budget decreases first time in recent years

By Andrew Yde
Copy Editor

Southwest Allen Country Schools' (SACS) budget has decreased for the first time in recent years, as the 2010-2011 budget is reduced by more than $1,000,000 from the previous year. SACS will receive $35,803,360 from the state this year, approximately 25 percent of which will go to Homestead High School. Before 2010, this value had gradually increased from $35,958,765 in 2007 to $36,427,740 in 2008 and then to $36,803,846 in 2009.

"School and program costs are driven by personnel costs (wages and benefits), and those costs vary by teachers' years of experience and types of benefits taken. These costs change as our staffing changes," Jim Coplen, SACS Business Manager, said.

Consequently, the drop in the amount of money given to Southwest Allen County Schools by the state is a result of a change in personnel costs for SACS.

SACS STATE FUNDING

YEAR	BUDGET
2007	$35,958,765
2008	$36,427,740
2009	$36,803,846
2010	$35,803,360

ACCORDING TO SACS BUSINESS MANAGER, JIM COPLEN

"State funding levels are for the General Fund only. Nearly 90 percent of these funds are expended for personnel costs," Coplen said.

Personnel costs change annually for the school district. Personnel costs have been altered this year by the retirement buy-out option that was offered for retiring teachers last year, as well as other less significant reasons.

"Basically, we replaced retiring

SEE 'STATE FUNDING' PAGE 2A

BRIEFS

FACULTY NIGHT LIVE
The first annual Faculty Night Live is Wednesday, October 13 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets will be sold during all lunches beginning Monday, October 4. Tickets will also be available at the door.

STAGE CREW
Victoria Malooley is looking for students interested in helping with set building, stage crew, and backstage areas for the fall play. There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, October 5 after school in Room 416.

BACK ROOM'S BACK
The Student Government-sponsored back room has returned. It will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during all lunches. Representatives will be selling sweets similar to those of last year.

SENIOR PICTURES
In order to be included in the yearbook, seniors need to have their portrait taken at Prestige Photo Studio as soon as possible. This portrait is free for the student and does not require purchasing any additional packages.

PSAT REMINDER
Wednesday, October 13 is PSAT day for sophomores and juniors. Seniors have the opportunity to job shadow or visit a college instead of coming to school. Seniors are encouraged to finalize arrangements soon.

▸▸ADVISORY CONTINUED FROM 1A

mostly silent on the issue.

"The district has a policy of refraining from discussing litigation issues, so I can't discuss it," Rick Smith, Homestead's Principal, said.

Smith was, however, able to comment on how the advisory program would be carried out for the rest of the year.

"Frankly, everything is going as planned. We're currently following our original plan from the beginning of the year," Smith said. This plan involves the introduction of Navigation 101, one of the primary causes for the filing of the unfair labor practice.

Navigation 101 was added to make advisory more relevant to students, according to Smith.

"Navigation 101 should be more interesting, and more helpful to students than some of the activities that went on in advisory last year," Smith said.

The changes to advisory also change the focus of advisory, satisfying state-held expectations.

"The state of Indiana expects us to have a career related component in the school," Smith said.

Despite the fact that the teachers' association took legal action toward the school, the administration was pleased with the resulting discussion.

"It's good to have discussion, so we can answer the questions and concerns of the teachers," Smith said.

The teachers' association was also happy with the discussion, as well as the changes made to advisory following the discussion.

"The administration met with us and worked through a lot of the questions we had," Jon Baker, President of SACTA, said. "It was helpful."

Following the filing of the unfair labor practice, the school and SACTA sat down to discuss the changes to advisory, and find a resolution to the problem.

"As a result of the discussion, two advisories were cancelled or postponed, giving teachers more time to prepare," Baker said.

Members of SACTA, however, denied that the unfair labor practice was solely about advisory.

"[The unfair labor practice] wasn't about advisory, because many of us really believe the concept is very good," Schmid said. "It was about the way the program was instituted."

Schmid continued to say that not only are teachers not against advisory, but many teacher in fact support the program.

"Many members of [the teachers' association] are strongly in support of advisory, and many are on the advisory steering committee."

As conflict between the school and teachers is resolved, both parties are hopeful that advisory will be a better program as a result.

"Our main concern was getting teachers trained to properly lead advisory classes," Baker said.

▸▸DOWNS CONTINUED FROM 1A

Downs has worked previously in every level of primary education. Downs coached and taught in Fort Wayne Community Schools for ten years. He was also a middle school administrator in Fort Wayne Community Schools for one year, the assistant principal of Maple Creek for five years and the first principal at Cedar Canyon Elementary School for four years.

"Because I have worked at every level of education, I know how everything works and can get everyone to see how everything works as one big team," Downs said.

Downs's previous coworkers at Cedar Canyon Elementary agree that his past experience will make him a good assistant superintendent. Lynda Myers, the secretary and treasurer at Cedar Canyon Elementary school, said that she thinks that Downs will do well as Southwest Allen County's new assistant superintendent because of his leadership skills.

"It took a lot of leadership and planning to start building [Cedar Canyon] from the ground up," Myers said. "His ability to lead teachers and students...will help him in his new job as Assistant superintendent."

Myers also comments that Downs is thorough and does not make hasty decisions.

"[Downs] is a very good leader. He doesn't react quickly... [and] he's very thoughtful and has research to back up his opinions and decisions," Myers said. "It was very difficult to see him leave."

For Southwest Allen County Schools, however, the transition between assistant superintendents has been unproblematic and uneventful.

"There have been no particular changes," Smith said. "We have followed our procedures and protocols similar to what they've been in the past. It has been an easy transition."

Although Downs does not have any specific changes in mind, he said he wants to learn about what makes Southwest Allen County a great district and then make it greater.

"I very much believe in looking at the positive and helping other look at the positive," Downs said. "It helps move people in the right direction."

▸▸WEIGHTED GRADES CONTINUED FROM 1A

dents]."

If the proposal is approved, the new grading scale will affect the grades from the first semester of the current school year. Changes in letter grades will be made by Powerschool. The grading scale, however, is not retroactive, meaning it will not affect grades from previous school years to avoid causing too many complications.

The general student opinion about the proposed grading is positive. Block student Vishal Narayan (9) says he believes that the workload in AP classes merits a reward.

"AP classes are difficult," Narayan said. "[The new grading scale] would be an improvement, and it would influence students to take AP classes, because they'd be easier."

Seniors who have taken AP courses agree that the proposed grading system is a good change. Sachin Jain (12) said that even though the change will affect him very much, it is a positive change for other AP students.

"The pressure to do well is not nearly as high, which makes it easier to perform well in class," Jain said.

Jain also said that he believes that the new grading scale will be effective in encouraging more students to take more AP courses.

"Many people argue that the new scale is a reason for students to not work as hard, but I think that, as AP students, individuals will continue to work just as hard while taking more advanced classes," Jain said. "The fear of doing poorly in an AP class is something that always deters students from taking the class, but the new scale is a big incentive to take the AP classes."

The rationale for the new proposed grading scale is simple.

"We believe...[that] AP students should be rewarded for choosing rigorous courses," Maher said.

▸▸SCHOLARS CONTINUED FROM 1A

students who were commended for scoring over 200 points."

Members of the student body agreed with Hamilton about the scores, citing the high number of students who scored close to the cut off.

"A good deal of students came really close to making the cut, so I wouldn't say that Homestead had any shortage of good scores," Ruhrold said.

The class of 2011 had a total of 17 students score over 200 on the PSAT, three more than the class of 2010, which only had 14 students break 200.

"I think 17 students is one of the highest numbers we've had in recent years," Hamilton said. "A few points more and four or five of these students would have been semifinalists."

Despite Homestead's improvement from previous years, the low percent of the student body scoring over 200 on the PSAT may be due to the minimal level of preparation for the test.

"We do not necessarily do a lot of prep work for the test," Hamilton said. "For some students, this is the first test of its kind they have seen."

While Ruhrold and Lin have qualified to be semifinalists, they still are not guaranteed any scholarship money.

"I don't know how much money I'm getting yet, if anything," Lin said. "It depends on a lot of things."

Factors determining whether semifinalists will become finalists include their grades and SAT scores. Semifinalists also are required to fill out an application to be eligible to receive any scholarship money.

The money, however, is not the most important benefit gained from the scholarship, according to Hamilton.

"Even though it's a wonderful scholarship opportunity, it's not necessarily a great deal of money, though it may gain students recognition from schools that will offer them scholarships," Hamilton said.

The University of Alabama is one such school that recognizes the National Merit Scholarship for additional scholarships.

"The University of Alabama recruited and gave full rides to five Homestead students based on their National Merit Scholarships," Hamilton said.

The two semifinalists are now working on becoming finalists, and hopefully getting scholarships.

"I already filled out an application and wrote a quick essay to send out, so that I can qualify to be a finalist," Ruhrold said.

▸▸STATE FUNDING CONTINUED FROM 1A

teachers with newer teachers who are a lower cost to the district at this point in time," Coplen said.

Other district level positions were cut, along with cuts in supply and operating budgets, to provide for a nearly $1.1 million budget cut in the past year alone.

Although other schools have been buying new equipment such as computers, the General Fund given to SACS by the state is not intended for the purpose of technological advancement in the district. The money given to each school depends strictly on the personnel needs of that school, not on the desire of teachers and staff to have flat-screen televisions or new technologies like Smartboard.

Because the General Fund from the state is meant to supply the money necessary to pay teachers and staff their respective earned wages, it is advantageous for SACS to employ newer teachers. More experienced teachers with higher college degrees require higher salaries from the state-provided General Fund.

Some students from Southwest Allen Country district schools argue that the advantage of newer, less-experienced teachers who do not have to be paid as much over older, more-experienced teachers who require higher salaries in the competition for teaching jobs is unfair.

"Newer teachers should be given the chance to get new jobs, but not at the expense of better-qualified teachers," Chris Anderson (10) said.

However, teachers who are nearing retirement welcome the arrival of new teachers in Southwest Allen County Schools.

"New, inexperienced teachers have to be given opportunities to become old, experienced teachers," Keith Potter, a government teacher at Homestead High School who considered taking advantage of the buy-out last year, said. "It is a good time to hire [new teachers] because layoffs in other school districts cause many good teachers to become available."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: Orange Chicken is no longer served in the oriental line.
Status: True -The company that supplies food to the school no longer carries orange chicken.

"None of the schools that buy from the same company are getting orange chicken anymore," David McAlexander, a cafeteria employee, said.

Homestead is not the only school that no longer has orange chicken – schools from other districts have been similarly affected.

"I talked to teachers at East Noble, and they said that they aren't able to get the same food this year either," McAlexander said.

In addition to orange chicken, other items have also been absent from the selection of foods at lunch.

"Teriyaki chicken is another food we just don't get anymore," McAlexander said.

Complaints among students have been prevalent, as orange chicken and teriyaki chicken were popular items.

"Orange chicken was one of the most popular items we had, so it's too bad that it is gone," McAlexander said.

While the school knows that orange chicken will no longer be offered, reasons as to why the supplier stopped carrying the item are still unclear.

"We don't know why they stopped carrying [orange chicken], we just know that they don't have it anymore," McAlexander said. - *Joe Janizek*

▸▸CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED FROM 1A

been communicating with us, which gives us leeway to contact parents and teachers."

Despite the efforts of construction workers to inform SACS transportation offices about road construction and closings, students that drive to and from school do not have the benefit of communication with the construction workers. Although students have other resources for learning about construction and road closings, they lack the communication that the bus drivers have and are therefore less able to predict traffic and construction conditions.

"Once Covington's closed, after school is going to be a mess," Rob Lee (12), who drives to and from school, said. "I can see it really backing things up."

In addition to concerns about the disorganization and delays that will result from construction sites around the school, worries abound that drivers are also likely to disobey driving laws to keep away from construction. Students have expressed the concern that construction zones cause roads to be less safe.

"It gets on my nerves when people are crossing double yellows to avoid construction or rubble," Lee said.

> "I have a friend that has no time between secondary and elementary because she has to go so far out of her way for routes."
>
> **GLENDA HARMEYER**
> *SACS Bus Driver*

Nevertheless, the multiple construction projects on roads that are used for students' daily commutes to and from school have so far not led to any major accidents or traffic delays among students. By keeping students and bus drivers informed about road conditions, Homestead has been able to work around the problems posed by road construction.

"I think it's a crying shame that they have so many construction sites working at the same time, but the workers have been sure to help drivers through when they need it," Harmeyer said.

Two clubs become official after long process

Students develop extracurriculars for book, chess lovers

By Teddy Popplewell
Writer

Homestead introduces two new clubs this year, following the creation of the Chess Club and the Book Club. While creating a registered club on Homestead's official list of extracurricular and co-curricular activities can be a long and strenuous process, students who have enough patience to tough it out say it can be very beneficial.

"You have to sell the idea to the administration, then draft a constitution and have the constitution approved by Student Government," Nicole DeCriscio (11), Book Club co-founder, said.

Despite the prevalence of clubs at Homestead, not all students know where to go to sign up for a club that interests them. Student Services has a list of all the registered clubs and their advisors.

"All of the clubs are run differently. The sign-up time and place just depends on whoever is running that club," Kathy Adair, Chess Club and Junior Classical League Advisor, said. Chess Club, one of the two new clubs this year, was created so that chess players throughout the school would have a place to hone their skills or play recreationally.

"I thought that [Chess Club] would be a nice thing because I have some students that aren't involved in anything," Adair said.

However, some students who filled out the form did not do so just to find a fun after-school hangout.

"There are people that joined just to learn Chess," Adair said. Sign-up was open on registration day, but students can still join any time during the school year.

For students interested in reading about knights and kings rather than playing with them, the new Book Club may be the right place. Instead of traditional book clubs where a single work is discussed at each meeting, DeCriscio and her co-founder Taylor Kennedy (11) chose a different approach.

"First, we choose a theme and we read any book with that theme. At the end of the month, we write a summary of the book and discuss various aspects," Kennedy said. In hopes that people with diverse interests will join the club, there is no specified book that all of the members have to read, according to Kennedy.

"I hope all students are attracted to Book Club," Wendy Kovach, Book Club advisor, said. "They're going to get a lot of fun out of reading with other students."

In addition to its enjoyable nature, Book Club will also benefit its members, according to student sources.

"The Book Club will benefit members because it will help form groups of friends with common interests," Kennedy said.

The first Book Club meeting was on Monday, September 20 in the IMC, when students met to officially join the club.

Kovach hopes that for whatever reason, students decide to participate in book club.

"I just love to see kids read," Kovach said.

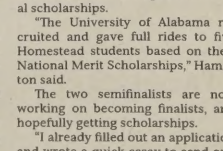


PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Daniel Harrison (11) analyzes his next move at the first chess club meeting.

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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

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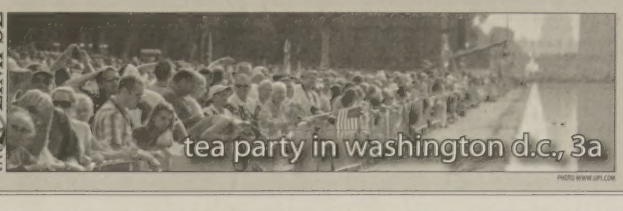
OPINION



Recovery from economic recession abusrd without Emergency Jobs Fund

BY CHRISSY VERHOFF
Writer

After suffering through the worst economic recession in over 70 years, the nation is recovering, however gradually. Without the renewal of the expiring Emergency Jobs Fund, thousands of jobs will be lost nationally – and without these desperately-needed jobs available, a full economic recovery is virtually impossible.

The original stimulus plan, formally known as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF/ECF), appropriated $5 billion to create jobs nationwide. However, on September 30, 2010, hundreds of thousands of Americans may face unemployment once again, as the government funding, and their jobs, come to an end. In states such as Illinois, Rhode Island and California, programs to assist people in finding jobs have proved themselves to be quite successful, using the stimulus money to pay wages. In San Francisco specifically, over 3,800 people have found jobs through the JOBS NOW! stimulus program since May 2009. Providence, Rhode Island has seen similar success, with over 365 people employed since February of this year through its JobsNow RI program.

"As anyone can tell, the recession is not over yet, and taking the jobs away from thousands of hard-working citizens is the worst possible action the government could take at this point in America's economic recovery."

CHRISSY VERHOFF
WRITER

With programs similar to these spread across the country, unemployment rates have been lowered, which points toward the end of the recession. According to White House reports, TANF jobs provide employment opprotunity to those who are in most need. Almost 90% of recipients making a family income of under $25,000 If Congress does not continue to provide the funds, however, unemployment rates are predicted to rise once again.

Without the fund's renewal, unemployment rates in Illinois are expected to rise from approximately 10.4 to 10.7 percent, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. With the loss of so many jobs, Congress must keep in mind that not only the economy is affected – the failure to renew the package would also result in major struggles for average families, as parents would begin yet another desperate search for jobs to support their children.

One characteristic of this bill that sets it apart from most is that it has been extremely effective. Since it was originally passed, thousands of jobs have been successfully created for the unemployed, resulting in decreased unemployment rates as well as more content and proud citizens. Despite the enormous success of many job programs nationwide, individual states will have no option but to bring their programs to a halt if the federal fund is not renewed.

Within Congress, the Senate has been the most significant trouble spot in the House's attempts to pass the bill before its expiration date. Although the fund has received high praise from both Democrats and Republicans for its tremendous success in creating jobs across thirty-seven states, Congress has still had little success in coming to a compromise between the houses.

As anyone can tell, the recession is not over yet, and taking the jobs away from thousands of hardworking citizens is the worst possible action the government could take at this point in America's economic recovery. By extending the time span of the fund and allowing for vital employment programs to continue, the economy will have the opportunity to recover fully, relieving the government of the need to provide more funding in the future. Unless Congress renews the stimulus package, hundreds of thousands of Americans will find themselves searching for jobs once again, which presses the question, will the recession ever end?

Students unwilling to step in due to 'disciplinary suicide'

Good Samaritans honorable intentions overlooked by administration

Despite their fluctuating hallway locations, differing participants and the varying driving forces behind them, two elements of school fights remain constant: they are nothing if not timeless crowd pleasers and subjects of prolonged gossip. While they are always poised to become the impetus for widespread laughter or fuel to the eternal wheel of the rumor mill, the twenty-first century introduces something new and occasionally troubling to the age-old fight handbook: technology.

Gone are the quixotic days and circumstances of high schools often portrayed on the silver screen, high schools where fights occur and students are quick to step between their quarreling peers without the necessity of waiting for teachers to intervene. In this era, students are more apt to whip out a cell phone with dreams of Internet infamy.

However, perhaps it is wise that when conflict arises in the hallways and students come to blows, innocent bystanders choose to step back to watch the melee unfold or fetch a responsible adult rather than become involved.

While there is something to be said for the integrity characteristic of plucky movie heroines who step into cinematic frays to put distance between their hulking boyfriends and the bashful geeks who clandestinely pine after them, being a good Samaritan seems to accomplish more harm than benefit in a day and age where all parties even remotely involved are treated (and occasionally punished) as though they were suspects. What student in his/her right mind would make an effort to do the right thing when such integrity's only reward would be perhaps an errant fist to the face and most certainly a one-way ticket to be hauled down to the discipline office with his/her belligerent peers? The administration's treatment of fights and those on the fringes of them is in such a state that being the "bigger person" becomes a sort of disciplinary suicide and is no longer the "right thing" to do.

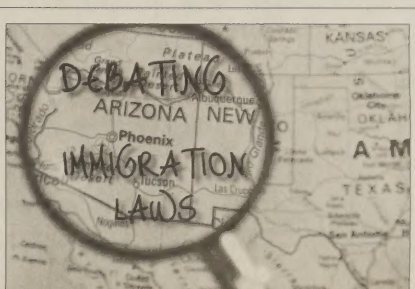
Despite the administration's continued insistence and occasional threatening that the juiciest of videos captured in Homestead's hallways be removed from the Internet, there is no reason that students should be denied this right. Perhaps, if administrators are opposed to the liability and impropriety of the videos that appear on the web in the wake of fights, they should work harder to discipline those at the scene with cell phones, elsewise they've no room to complain about something resulting from the shortcomings of their own system.

Whether the twenty-first century's modifications to school fights are good or bad, one adage remains true: use your words, Homestead.

THE ED BOARD

Mary Distler	Max Isroff	Adrienne Westenfeld
Beth Huber	Joe Janizek	Laura Zweig
Joe Hanauer	Ben Mikesell	Molly Zweig

{The Bottom Line} The administration's adherance to procedure makes students less willing to stop fights, and more likely to tape them or simply walk away.



SB1070 morally, legally problematic

BY ADRIENNE WESTENFELD
Opinion Editor

Even a decade into the twenty-first century, it seems that opportunities to get ahead in the United States remain slim to none for minorities; according to the U.S. Census, the salary gap between men and women performing the same job is a staggering and ever-widening 25%, not to mention the fact that religious minorities and those of uncommon sexual preference are incessantly and intolerantly villainized. On the heels of the aforementioned disparities comes yet another nail in the American coffin of inequality: immigration laws in Arizona, a state that has become synonymous with legal intolerance.

The law, SB1070, provides that all aliens register with the United States government and have registration documents in their possession at all times; if confronted by a police officer during a "lawful stop, detention, or arrest" and said police officer has "reasonable suspicion" to believe that the apprehended person resides in Arizona unlawfully, he/she is permitted to require the person to produce immigration documents. If none can be produced, the alleged alien will be thrown in jail until his/her status of legal residency can be verified, and if found lacking, all aliens will be neatly and unceremoniously express-shipped back to the corner of the world from whence they came: signed, sealed, delivered.

Is there anything more fascist than the phrase "show me your papers"? Arizona has become a police state maintained by means of the internal documentation system previously implemented and failed in Soviet and apartheid nations. SB1070 is nothing if not a legalization of the racial profiling so characteristic of the Nazi regime, a statewide sanction for police officers to determine the probable legal residency status of all apprehended persons by means of consulting personal prejudices and propagating toxic, age-old stereotypes regarding skin color. When questioned on separate occasions regarding how one would identify an illegal immigrant without the consideration of racial characteristics, sitting governor Jan Brewer and state senator Russell Pearce both appeared visibly flustered before hastily diverting the question. Brewer and Pearce's inability to form a cogent response is nothing if not confirmation that SB1070 is a breeding ground for racial intolerance that creates a suspect class of all Hispanics, legal or otherwise.

One must consider Arizona's leadership, and rightfully so; in a televised gubernatorial debate, Brewer was silent for over fifteen seconds during the moderator's introduction, a portion of the debate that required naught more than a simple salutation. She proceeded by stating, "I have really did the very best that anyone could do." Her term boasts such egregious rulings such as the elimination of gifted and GED programs, class sizes as astronomical as forty-five students, and a state deficit in excess of $1 million. History is evidently not on Brewer's side, and it seems that the blind are leading the equally blind in a tailspin of discrimination.

Nor is history on Arizona's side; in 1975's Plyler v. Doe, Texas passed a law to deprive children of undocumented parents of their right to public education, an edict seven years later struck down by the Supreme Court. In 1994, a U.S. district judge forced California to repeal its Proposition 187, a law that sought to deny health and educational benefits of the unregistered. Like its ill-fated predecessors, SB1070 is unconstitutional; Arizona has surpassed its state rights, as only the federal government is permitted to pass legislation upon foreign affairs. SB1070 imposes a misdemeanor and an associated financial penalty for conduct that is not a crime, but is only justification for deportation.

President Obama has instructed the Department of Justice to investigate the possibility of a federal challenge to SB1070. The law is not only morally and legally problematic, but a dramatic step backward and a humiliation to a nation that boasts tolerance.

Glenn Beck looks to draw more unnecessary attention

Conservative talk show host rallies supporters, Tea Party activists in D.C.

BY COLTON SHAFFER
Writer

In these trying times, Glenn Beck advises people to "turn back to God." On August 28, conservative talk show host Glenn Beck held a rally in Washington D.C. to which hundreds of thousands of conservatives and Tea Party supporters flocked. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, many proponents of the Tea Party gathered to make heartfelt speeches about the goodness of their God and tearful claims of the braveness of America's troops. Supporters deny the presence of political overtones in the rally, but the evidence is undeniable. Beck was simply looking for an excuse to draw more attention to himself and the wildly misguided agenda of the Tea Party.

Beck's rally was held on the 47th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in the exact same location. His opponents were naturally disgusted with his choice of date and place.

"[Beck's rally] humiliated the tradition," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said in an interview with CNN. It is intolerable that Beck feels himself worthy of occupying the same space as peacemakers and equalizers.

He is the very symbol of everything that is backward in America. There is no wonder that most of the bordering-on-racist, reactionary Christian population in America sides with him.

Beck, however, feigns innocence. "It was not my intention to select 8-28," he said on his talk show in June. "I had no idea [when I scheduled the rally]."

The first amendment may guarantee citizens the right to peacefully assemble, but that cannot stop Beck and all his Tea Party followers from forever desecrating the memory of King's inspirational speech.

Beck's rally was held in the name of restoring the principles of honor and courage to America, but during his speech, Beck himself lied to the crowd. "I...held the First Inaugural Address written in his own hand by George Washington," Beck stated. Coincidentally, the National Archives, where the Address is housed, doesn't allow anyone to touch rare historical documents. So why would Beck lie in his own rally about restoring honor? "I thought it was a little clumsy to explain [that I only just saw it]," Beck admitted on his talk show later.

▸▸50
Muslim Americans were among the 3,000 people that lost their lives on 9/11.

Unacceptable. If Beck wants to return this country to the principles on which it was founded – which include truth – then his methods of doing so should keep to the straight and narrow. Beck's misguided attempts to "fix" the country are just adding fuel to the fire. Returning America to the questionably Christian principles on which it was founded is not what these American people need. "His fib stands in stark contrast to the point of the rally," Stephanie Mencimer, Mother Jones writer, said.

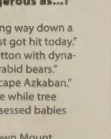
Glenn Beck, and by extension the Tea Party, is really making an appeal to people's sense of patriotism. The Republican Party thinks that, by spinning the Tea Party as a grassroots movement, they can gain more support from the average American.

Slogans like "dissent is patriotic" and "socialism" are misused to scare people into thinking that the more progressive Democratic Party brings change that is somehow harmful.

No one ever stops to think that perhaps America needs the change that President Obama offers. Wake up, America: anyone who wants to scare the people back to the way things were is not good for a progressive country. If America wants to stay on top, the American people must accept change.

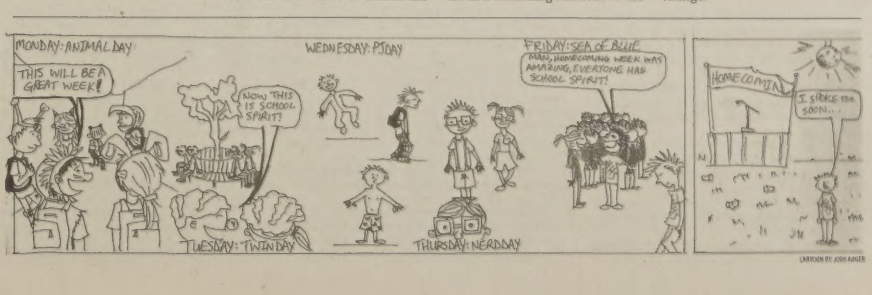
the facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Dan Vandeveer will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.



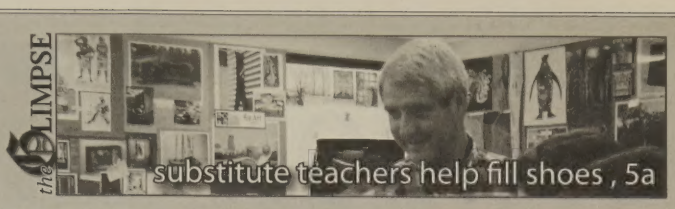
Question: "Trying to get out of the school parking lot is as dangerous as...?"

Amanda Wurst ▸▸ "Driving the wrong way down a one way street, considering I almost got hit today."
Jacob Fehlhaber ▸▸ "Playing badmitton with dynamite, blindfolded, on the backs of rabid bears."
Emily Rapoza ▸▸ "Attempting to escape Azkaban."
Megan Maroney ▸▸ "Climbing a tree while tree while being chased by demon possessed babies with scissors"
Madie Zirzow ▸▸ "Roller-blading down Mount Everest with Kara Bautz."
Michael Hope ▸▸ "Trying to ride a bike down I-69 during rush hour."
Olivia Byler ▸▸ "Jumping out into oncoming traffic blind-folded."
Jorden Packer ▸▸ "Plaig with sharped scissors."
Michael Peters ▸▸ "Doing a trust fall off of a building."
Neil Rajdev ▸▸ "Either pulling up to a gas station in Detriot jamming to Katy Perry or stealing food from Snooki."
Domonic Schroeder ▸▸ "Smoking on school grounds."
Kaleb Mankey ▸▸ "Ohio State's quarterback, Terrelle Pryor, in the red zone."



CARTOON BY JOSH AUGER

LIFESTYLE



Easy access; convenience, assist in student's loss of hearing

Despite health effects, earbuds still popular listening mechanism for musical pleasure

By Dani Castanzo
Writer

According to the Washington Post, the average teenager amps the music up on their iPod to around 120 decibels, comparable to the decibels one experiences while sandblasting or at a loud rock concert. In fact, most decibel comparison charts state that pain begins at around 125 dB. No wonder the rate of hearing loss has increased significantly after the release of earbud headphones. The American Medical Association recently reported that an astounding 1 in 5 teenagers have acquired some high-pitched hearing loss. That's over 55 million people.

Although listening to ear-splitting music through normal headphones can be damaging, earbuds affect hearing more quickly because they are placed directly inside the ear.

Even with knowledge of the risks of deafness, students at Homestead still seem to pull their earbuds out of their pockets and jam down the hallways before and after school.

"Headphones are too bulky," Emily Muha (10) said. "With earbuds, you just wrap them around your iPod and you're good to go."

Muha and others seem to choose earbud headphones over other listening devices because of their convenient portability.

"Earbuds stick in your ears and are more comfortable than headphones," Angel Gonzalez (9) said. "You can also sleep with them in."

However, despite their popularity, iPods are not the only portable audio devices to blame; other sound devices such as MP3 players have been known to damage hearing as well.

Surprisingly, others say that it is not the volume of the music that matters, but rather the period of time. Audiology professional Brian Fogler said in an interview with TIME Magazine that people should feel free to listen to their music as loud as they want, but only for a limited time.

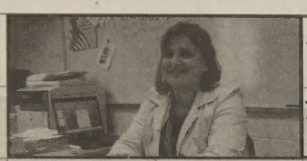
Despite the advice provided by many about the limited period that iPods should be listened to, new technology is offering incentives for people to listen to music longer– exactly the opposite of what audiologists are advising. Newer iPods have longer battery lives and the capability to hold more songs, encouraging people to spend more time listening to music.

The science behind earbuds is that once they are placed inside the ear, the tiny hair cells are damaged by the proximity of the loud music. According to Science Daily, if the hair cells are damaged during one-time occurrence, like attending a large concert, they will most likely heal. On the contrary, earbuds are causing them to be consistently and permanently harmed when used on a weekly, if not daily basis.

One way to play it safe is to purchase quality headphones or earbuds that are manufactured to keep out any outside sound. In essence, people who use these are more inclined to turn down the volume if there are no other sounds that would originally cause them to listen to deafeningly loud music.

Of course, the best way to listen to music is not through earbuds and headphones.

"My opinion is that you only get two ears in your life," Biology teacher Steve Bushong said. "There is a price to pay for anything that you abuse in life. Like everything else, you need to take care of your ears if you want them to work for your entire life."



"I love Homestead. So far, so good."
JEANINE MILLER
Former Elmhurst Teacher

"I thought adjusting was pretty easy."
CORENE JOHNSON
Former Elmhurst Student

From Trojans to Spartans

Former Elmhurst students, staffer adjust, enjoy environment of new school

By Rachel Shinn
Writer

Elmhurst High School closed its doors after last school year due to a district wide budget cut of 15 million. Of the approximate 900 students who attended Elmhurst, most were sent to various Fort Wayne Community High Schools including Northrop, North Side, South Side and Wayne. A few students however, took a different route and now attend Homestead High School.

Allen Arias (11), Genica Campbell (11) and Corene Johnson (11) are three of the students who transferred to Homestead from Elmhurst, each with a different story of why they came and how they adjusted to Homestead life.

"My mom is a Spanish teacher here and she wanted me to go to [here] beginning my freshman year," Arias said. "We didn't have a chance to move but with the closing, it gave us the extra incentive."

Even though Homestead is not part of the Fort Wayne Community School District, Campbell and Johnson also now attend Homestead though they had other motives.

"It was one of the best schools to come to," Campbell said. Johnson also had a similar reason.

"It was just safe," said Johnson.

Though some may have more ease than others, adjusting to Homestead life can be quite difficult. A recurring topic mentioned by the students during the interview was advisory.

"We had no advisory, no seminar," Campbell said. "You just went to school, went to class, and came home."

Others though, had a different idea.

"I actually have gone through the Navi01 program at Elmhurst and it's extremely eye-opening in the way that it shows you the tuition cost to requirements and anything in between," Arias said. "It'd definitely a valuable tool."

Transferring from Elmhurst to Homestead as a teacher provides a different experiences. New students and especially new programs can be challenging to be accustomed to.

"We didn't officially have advisory, but many teachers wanted it," Jeanine Miller, a Business and Student Government teacher, said.

With any new school, adjusting to teachers, classes, and homework is always a challenge. Elmhurst was on a block schedule meaning that students had four classes a day, each ninety minutes long. Homestead operates on seven class schedule, each one lasting forty seven minutes. Making that switch was difficult for some, though easy for others.

"All of my teachers are very helpful and easy to listen to," Arias said. "I'd probably say the hardest thing to get used to is all the homework and reconstructing my close knit group of friends again, which is honestly what I miss most."

Arias also mentioned that the structure of the class at Homestead if different than it was at Elmhurst.

"It's really a combination of things but mainly that we make good use of our class time at Homestead," Arias said. "At Elmhurst, we'd work for thirty minutes and then be bored for an hour."

Staying in touch with old friends is sometimes crucial to a student's ability to make new ones at a different school.

"Homework just doesn't give us time to hang with friends," Campbell said. Similarly, Johnson said she used Facebook and texting to keep in touch with her old friends.

All in all, the students who transferred from Elmhurst are receiving a different experience than the others who were split up among the four Fort Wayne Community High Schools.

"It's going pretty well," Arias said. "I can truly say I feel like this was the best school for me."

"It [Homestead] was one of the best schools to come to."
GENICA CAMPBELL
Former Elmhurst Student

"Everyone welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like part of the HHS family."
ALLEN ARIAS
Former Elmhurst Student

Twitter, Facebook bridge generation gap; increase communication

Staff, students compare benefits, downsides of popular social networking internet sites

By Laura Zweig
Associate Life Editor

It's not just the hallways that are atwitter with news of social networking Web sites; it's the teacher's lounge too.

Scott Hill, an English teacher, joined Twitter a year and a half ago because it seemed like the next new thing.

"It was more to follow the personalities in the public eye," Hill said. "I didn't join to document my life."

Hill was curious to see famous personalities when they weren't being careful of the public eye. He says his favorite Twitter user is Roger Ebert because he doesn't just talk about movies.

"Twitter is more of a way to find other links to places on the internet, which is what Roger Ebert does," Hill said. But for Hill, the novelty of Twitter has worn off.

"I very rarely tweet," Hill said. "There's a lot of overlap between the tweet and the status update on Facebook. I update my status more often."

Hill favors Facebook because "[he] can connect to the most people" and "it steals functions from other Web sites."

Meggie Vail (10) disagrees. Twitter is her preferred social networking Web site.

"I definitely like Twitter better," Vail, who joined Twitter last February, said. "Facebook is so overcrowded, and I'm sick of it."

Vail likes following celebrities, like Justin Bieber, and her sister's friends. Albeit appealing at first, Vail gets frustrated by the status updates she sees online.

"On Twitter, I write random things that no one cares about, what I'm doing, or stuff about Harry Potter," Vail said. "You see what people are actually doing instead of stupid song lyrics."

Vail also finds the convenience of Twitter to be appealing.

"You can tweet whenever, wherever you want. On Facebook, if you post too often, you look like a desperate loser," Vail said.

Justin Peeper, Spanish teacher, feels differently.

"I see the value [in Twitter], but I don't think my life is important enough to tweet," Peeper said.

While he prefers Facebook, Peeper says that he would never put anything on any social network that he wouldn't print on the front page of a newspaper. But teachers aren't just using these tools to network.

"You can tweet whenever, wherever you want. On Facebook, if you post too often, you look like a desperate loser."
MEGGIE VAIL
@Un_Vailed

Sarah Jones, art teacher, started the art club Facebook page as a way to talk to her council members and communicate with the club.

Similarly, Jamie Smith, English teacher, joined a student-created group for her freshman block class last year. It was used as a way to discuss novels outside of the classroom.

"As a teacher, we like to be trendy and timely," Smith said. "I thought it would be interesting to speculate who a character would friend and what they would post on Facebook."

Smith assigned a project last year where students used a template to create a Facebook profile for one of the literary characters they studied. The technology was a tool to learn character development.

While social networking Web sites make networking easy, concerns have arisen regarding student/teacher relationships online.

"Nothing official has been said about friending students," Jennifer Bay, Assistant Principal, said. "However, it has been suggested that it's best to wait until [the students] graduate."

Bay said that it was not a matter of school rules so much as if a liability issue. If a student posted something that could harm someone and the teacher didn't report it, they would be liable.

"We were encouraged not to friend students because some communication could cross that line of an appropriate student/teacher relationship," said Smith, who learned of the school's unofficial policy during a teacher meeting.

Bay is friends with current students, though only members of the dance team.

"I'm friends with most dance team members because I use Facebook as a communication tool," Bay said.

Jones is Facebook friends with current students, such as Vail. However, she'll only accept a request if she has a strong relationship with that student.

"I don't friend current students," Peeper said. "But once they graduate, it's a different story."

Smith is not friends with students and sometimes waits 5-10 years to accept requests from Homestead graduates.

That philosophy translates to Twitter, as Hill only follows students who have graduated.

While students cannot currently be "friends" or "followers" of their favorite teachers, that privilege is something that can be looked forward to upon graduation.

Caffeine facts frighten tired, stimulant dependant students

High quantities of unregulated drug worries morning drinkers, changes habits of few

CAFFEINE BY THE MUG

DRINK	SERVING SIZE	CAFFEINE
Starbucks Coffee	16 oz.	320 mg
Brewed Tea	8 oz.	53 mg
Diet Snapple	16 oz.	42 mg
Vault	12 oz.	71 mg
Mountain Dew	12 oz.	71 mg
Diet Coke	12 oz.	47 mg
Monster	16 oz.	160 mg
Red Bull	8.3 oz.	80 mg
Tab Energy	10.5 oz.	95 mg
Amp	8.4 oz.	74 mg

PHOTO BY BETH HUBER | ACCORDING TO THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

BY KEVIN KUSISTO
Writer

Whether it's a stop by Starbucks or a trip to the grocery store for a couple Monsters or Rockstars, it appears as if students are always looking for sources of caffeine to keep them awake and attentive throughout the school day. Some students feel stressed and lack sleep, and therefore resort to drinks that are high in caffeine to keep them fully energized. However, others see the caffeine consumption at Homestead as excessive and, in some cases, utterly superfluous.

"All the time I see students carrying coffee cups before and during school," Jay Parekh (10) said. "It's a little weird, actually."

"[The school] is over-caffeinated, but I drink a lot of coffee because time is of the essence and I don't have any between my homework and band," Kasey Fracica (12) said.

However, teachers, in addition to students, sometimes find the need to consume caffeine to boost their energy.

"I drink both coffee and energy drinks, so I'm not a very good picture of health," Spanish teacher Kirsten Padgett said. "I do try to only drink sugar free Red Bull, only two or three times a week."

With the prohibition of open drink containers during the school day, it has become commonplace for teachers to confiscate such drinks during school or make students throw drinks away.

"It's the staff, teachers and administration's job to enforce the rules in the handbook to the best of our ability as set forth by the SACS school board," Steve Lake, Assistant Principal, said. "I believe students are warned, but are not sent to the office unless they refuse [to throw away their drinks]."

Although the typical Monster energy drink displays a warning similar to alcoholic beverages, "consume responsibly, not recommended to children", students continue to rely on energy drinks in the morning before school. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regularly monitors the caffeine contents in foods, yet energy drinks such as Monster, Red Bull, and Rockstar are marketed as dietary supplements, and are regulated differently than food. A report by WebMD's recently found that some energy drinks contain as much caffeine as found in 14 cans of soda. These high levels of caffeine intake can cause tremors, severe headaches and can even be fatal.

Because of these warnings and the many potentially damaging side effects of energy drinks, other students prefer to drink energy drinks less often, or choose coffee as an alternative source of caffeine.

"I drink [energy drinks] after school maybe once a week at the most," Alexa Lahren (11) said. "I don't think they're bad for you, especially if you just have them once in a while."

"Monster and Rockstar work for short spurts of time, but they're definitely not worth the crash that comes a few hours after you drink them," Jenn Kunkle (11) said. "I like coffee better because it has less caffeine, less sugar, and tastes better."

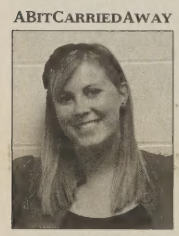
Caffeine may have its benefits, but it is not a healthy replacement for sleep. Caffeine does not help one focus, and, when combined with a lack of rest, actually impairs one's ability to learn. Energy drinks can be tasty, but making a habit of downing caffeine is not a good idea. If you think that your habit of replacing fatigue with a buzz is giving the same result as rest, you may want to rethink some things, and maybe consider putting that Rockstar back in the fridge.

Settlement is appropriate backlash for babysitting

My transition into legal adulthood was marked by sound decisions made with my new fully developed 18 year-old brain. I celebrated my birthday by, very responsibly, buying a lighter, losing the lottery, giggling as I took a lap around Priscilla's, and most importantly, signing the contract to my first smartphone. Yes, I now proudly tweet as part of #teamdroid from my new Droid 2.0, and let me tell you, Droid does. From the numerous applications I have yet to fully understand, I can now read e-mail, tweet, check Facebook, check the weather, look at maps, and read news with speed I'd better be getting for $30 a month in data payments.

So being a responsible worldly adult, I was reading the news on my Droid when I stumbled across an article about another heated battle between school district and student over cell phones and "sexting." While the subject is, from time to time, relevant to our own rumor mill, I clicked further not because it was a familiar story about the school taking down the student, but something I hadn't seen; the student won a $33,000 settlement from her high school.

A BIT CARRIED AWAY



BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
Executive Editor

According to the federal complaint, a girl, then 17, from Pennsylvania's phone was confiscated while she was answering a call during school, a violation of the school's cell phone policy. The phone was turned over to the principal, who looked through the teen's phone and found sexually explicit photographs of the teen. Though the photographs had not been sent to anyone but the teen's long term boyfriend, the phone was then turned over to the local district attorney's office, who threatened to charge the girl with possession of child pornography.

The teen, who in the federal complaint is named "N.N." to protect her privacy, eventually contacted the American Civil Liberties Union, and sued the Tunkhannock Area School District, the Wyoming County District Attorney's Office on a violation of N.N.'s constitutional rights. Rather than risk losing in court, N.N.'s school district agreed to a settlement of $33,000 to be paid to N.N., while the lawsuit against the D.A.'s office is still pending.

The settlement and the suit behind it are, from what I've read, the first real legal repercussions for school districts balancing a responsibility to eradicate sexting with students' rights to privacy, a difficult task in a world where technology is developing faster than the law can keep up.

Our own cell phone policy is fairly straightforward- if a phone is seen during the school day, it will be confiscated. After that, however, the school handbook gets murky. Nowhere in the cell phone policy is it mentioned that administrators can look through your phone if confiscated. However, under search and seizure policy, the handbook states "students, as well as their personal property... are subject to search if information received creates reasonable grounds to believe that students are in violation of Indiana law and/or the policies of Homestead High School."

Between reading that vague policy and the distinct memory I have of Officer Tinkle on the morning announcements claiming he would be cracking down on cell phone photographs, where does that leave me and my new Droid? Does using my phone during the school day prompt enough reasonable suspicion to justify the scan of my phone by an officer of the law? Does simply having a camera and 24/7 access to the internet mean that I might use it unwisely?

Unsurprisingly, I vehemently argue no. Without direct evidence against me, the school has no business looking in my phone, or anyone else's, for any reason. Teenagers bear their souls on their phones, and without suspicion, we have a basic right to keep them private. I also feel that D.A.'s prosecuting minors for child pornography are playing both sides of the fence- using a law meant to keep children safe to prosecute a teen trend. I suspect N.N.'s school district feared a federal court would feel the same way.

However, a settlement of one school district to one student sets no precedent, and without a direct legal standard, I doubt whether our school district agrees with my obviously one-sided argument. I will be long out of school by the time the law speeds up with my new Droid's 3G connection, but in the meantime, I'm now a legally responsible adult, and as such, I plan to keep my head low, my pictures clean and my new Droid hidden where administrators won't go looking.

Blazing a new Trail

Connected community is movement toward health, prosperity

PHOTO BY BEN MAESALL

Runner Spencer Amborn (11) uses the Aboite Trails to keep up with his workouts. When the trails are completed, there will be over 50 miles of pathways throughout Fort Wayne.

BY LEXI YANEZ
Writer

It often seems as if not a day goes by when someone is not on the Aboite Trails. People can always be seen walking, running, or riding their bike, even on a rainy day when it might be nicer to be inside. In addition to being a part of people's daily exercise and entertainment, the Aboite Trails have become dominant in commute of various students at Homestead High School.

"The girls Cross Country team uses the trails almost every single day," Lauren Purlee (11), said. "I'd say we use them nine out of ten days for at least part of our run."

> "The girls Cross Country team uses the trails almost every single day... I'd say we use them nine out of ten days for at least part of our run"
>
> **LAUREN PURLEE (11)**
> *Varsity Cross Country*

In 2002, local residents Lynn Reecer and Stephanie Schultz developed the Aboite New Trails program due to various motives.

"I had four reasons for wanting to have trails," Lynn Reecer, President and Founder of Aboite Trails, said. "My most important reason was because when my son Danny was 10, he wanted to ride is bike to John Repka's house, which was a mile away, but he couldn't because it was dangerous and there were no sidewalks. Another reason was that I saw the trail in Indianapolis, and a lot of people were out on the trail and it was gorgeous day. I fell in love. The third reason is there was no way to get to the playground by the YMCA, other than by car. The last reason is not as important as the first, but still matters. My husband and Ron Repka were close. A week after 9/11, Ron Repka was out riding his bike and was hit and killed by an impaired driver."

After the Aboite New Trails program was created, construction soon started to connect the community and make it safer for pedestrians. The main goal of Aboite New Trails is to connect people both to places and to each other.

In addition to bringing residents of Fort Wayne closer to each other, the Aboite Trails will be hosting the 3rd annual Great Ant (Aboite New Trails) Race on Sunday, October 10th. A variety of events will be held, such as the 10K run, 5K run, and a Kids' Fun Race. The race will be open to athletes in wheelchairs and people with disabilities and special needs.

"Last year the Great Ant Race raised just under $300, but this year we are hoping to raise $400," Allison Schuler, Ant Race director, said. "Now that Lutheran Hospital is our sponsor, hopefully more people will join in."

Although the trails prove to be efficient amongst the citizens of Fort Wayne, they have not yet been fully developed. Construction has recently been taking place around Aboite Township, which will result in the production of even more trails in the community. Once the Homestead trail is completed, it will connect 50 miles of trails from Southwest Allen County, to Fort Wayne and to New Haven.

Despite the construction that is underway on the trails, students at Homestead are still utilizing them and enjoying the safety they offer.

"The trails are nice for people my age and older to run on since drivers won't get mad that they have to share the road with us. If I was a parent, I wouldn't let my toddler ride their tricycle on the streets. I see little children ridding their tricycles on trails all the time." Purlee said.

Overall, the impact of the Aboite Trails has been tremendous. People use the trails to get from place to place on a daily basis.

"Nobody could ride their bike before, but now hundreds can," Reecer said.

Regular substitute teachers become part of fabric

Last minute teacher absences create need for temporary help in classroom

BY KIRSTEN OVERDAHL
Copy Editor

Homestead is like a puzzle – it functions based on many components that fit together. Substitute teachers are one of these essential components of the school day that ensure the school's ability to operate. Some substitute teachers work in the building only occasionally, while other substitutes have become just as familiar to students as their classroom teachers.

Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) keeps a list of substitute teachers who have applied to work in the district. However, a potential substitute teacher must meet specific qualifications.

"Substitute teachers are hired and placed on a substitute list after complete background and reference checks are completed by Human Resources," Phyllis Davis, Director of SACS Human Resources, said. "[The potential substitutes] must acquire a substitute license."

When a teacher at any school in the district needs to request a substitute, the teacher can call the substitute phone line, an answering machine on which the teacher requests a substitute for the desired date, length of time and subject. Teachers may also e-mail substitute requests to the substitute contact person for their school.

"We have a list that includes names, phone numbers and what preference for assignments the substitute may have," Kathy Slane, the substitute caller for the middle schools and high school, said. "The teacher can request who they would like as their replacement in the classroom. If the teacher does not have a request, either myself or the elementary caller will make a placement."

> "We try to place someone who has knowledge of the subject they will be teaching in the classroom."
>
> **KATHY SLANE**
> *Substitute Caller*

Slane, along with the elementary substitute caller, is on the job every day.

"[The callers'] positions require persistence and accuracy in finding the right substitute in a timely manner," Davis said. "They work under deadlines."

Teachers must send substitute requests for the next day by 10 p.m. the preceding evening or by 7:30 a.m. the morning of the requested date. Teachers who make their substitute requests at least 24 hours in advance are more likely to secure the substitute of their choice.

"We try to place someone who has knowledge of the subject they will be teaching in the classroom," Slane said. "Sometimes, that is not possible because of specialized subject matter, so then we look for someone that can keep control in a classroom but can also be kind to the students."

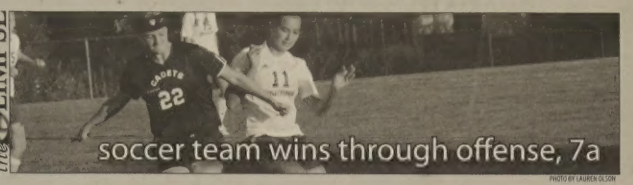
At Homestead, a full-day substitute assignment is 7:20 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. During their work day, substitutes follow the lesson plans left by the classroom teacher, take attendance, and help students if problems arise in the classroom. Occasionally, substitutes are needed for long-term jobs. The length in the needed stay may last anywhere from a week to more than nine weeks.

"A long term sub will be more involved in developing lesson plans for the assignment," Davis said. "[The substitute] may be approved for a temporary contract if they are certified as a teacher and approved by the Board."

Substitute positions, whether single-day or long-term, allow teachers flexibility and allow substitute teachers to work on a convenient schedule.

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE



soccer team wins through offense, 7a

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Volleyball team seeks solace in NHC Conference as season dwindles to end

Sub-par season, injuries to starters, puts team in quandary before heading into sectional tournament

By Connor O'Hara
Associate Sports Editor

Regardless to a slow start to their season, the Homestead girls' volleyball team has proven themselves against worthy opponents despite set-backs on and off the court. With such a demanding schedule, the team pushes through the difficulties that stand in their way, and hope to meet their pre-season expectations.

The Lady Spartans are still less than half-way done with their season, and although the results of their 4-6 season may not be entirely what the team expected, there is still much promise as the season continues.

The volleyball team currently has five seniors representing them this year: Erika Berghoff (12), Kylie Harris (12), Stephanie Scribner (12), Rylie Pearson (12) and Lauren Olson (12). For all of these seniors, this is their fourth year playing volleyball, and they certainly want to close out their final season with some fireworks.

"Personally, I think the biggest challenge with the team is going to be switching around our rotations and adjusting to all of the injuries we have had to deal with this season." Kylie Harris (12) said.

One of the major set-backs for the volleyball team came not from a player, but from their coach. While playing long time rival, Snider, Homestead was called for performing an illegal move early in the game.

Throughout the stands, fans and parents alike became livid and yelled at the referee for the call. The attitude on the court was no different than that of the bleachers.

"The call was that Stephanie [Scribner], one of our setters, set the ball over on the second hit when she was in a back row position, when really, one of our middles sent it over," Julia Sciole (11) said.

This was not the first time that this call had penalized the Spartans, the same call was made previously during the junior varsity game by the same referee.

Kent Mitchell, the head coach, frustrated by the call, yelled at the referee, who then proceeded to give Homestead a delay of game and a mandatory timeout.

Upon reaching his boiling point, Mitchell threw his clipboard down to the ground, shattering it instantly upon impact. This then resulted in Mitchell being ejected from the game, suspended from the next practice and the approaching game against Bishop Dwenger.

However, Mitchell returned in full swing as the coach of the volleyball team, and the fans, as well as the players, are more than happy to have him back.

This season will prove to be another tough year for Homestead, and the girls certainly have their work cut out for them. One of the major issues facing the teams is the fact that a majority of the players are out for injury, which is forcing some of the younger players such as Cassie Libbing (10) to take up the reigns they've been unfamiliar with up until now.

Facing their strongest competition of the season, the team lost to Penn High School during the Penn Invitational. The team would finish 2-2 on the day, a satisfying feat considering Penn is currently ranked first in the state.

After beating DeKalb in straight sets (3-0), the team is on a losing streak of two after losses to both East Noble and New Haven.

As the season continues, the players are setting their sights on their goal; winning sectionals. "That has always been a big goal since I first started playing and I think this would be the year we can do it," Rylie Pearson (12) said.

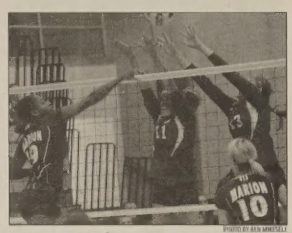


PHOTO BY ABBY MITCHELL

Lauren Olson (12) and Rylie Pearson (12) attempt to block a Marion outside-hitter's spike.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

FIGHT *for the* FINISH

Kodi Mullins (12) takes first at Marion Invitational, misses school record by three seconds

By Joe Laughlin
Writer

The boys' cross country team set high expectations for themselves coming into this season. With early success, the team has reached as high as 18th overall in state. Having a reputation of harboring strong runners in the past, Homestead has made a name for themselves as the team to beat in the NHC conference. The team is optimistic about their unfolding season, and is already focusing on a full team advancement to state this year.

Spartan runners have already experienced positive corollaries to their successes. On Saturday, September 4th, the team headed to Marion High School to compete in the Marion Invitational. The Homestead runners, though anxious and excited, were clearly in their element as they rose to a 3rd place finish amidst 29 other teams.

Senior captain Kodi Mullins (12) proved his position as one of the top runners in the state as he dominated the race and placed 1st at the invitational.

"It was a huge relief to win the Marion race. I went into the race wanting to break the school record, and I think that really pushed me," Mullins said. Although he raced spectacularly, Mullins unfortunately missed the school record by a mere three seconds.

Max Silcox (10) has also obtained an intimidating reputation as he was appointed "Runner of the Week" by RunIndiana.com upon placing 5th at the Huntington Invitational. The "Runner of the Week" title is awarded weekly to high school runners that have shown improvement and performed exceptionally well in their competitions.

"I was definitely surprised; I was not expecting to do as well as I did. Even with that performance at the Huntington Invitational, many other runners raced well," Silcox said.

> "It was a huge relief to win the Marion race. I went into the race wanting to break the school record, and I think that really pushed me."
>
> **KODI MULLINS (12)**
> *Varisty Cross Country Runner*

Alongside Mullins and Silcox are five more varsity runners. The varsity cross country team this year is mainly composed of upperclassmen, including Christian Clark (12), John Rose (11), Jordan Gearhart (12), Kipp Force (11) and Blake Harris (10). Each runner pushes both himself and his teammates to reach their full potential during meets and practices. All boys need to place highly in competitions, for each one plays a vital role in the team placing well overall.

In addition to each runner performing to the peak of their abilities, the veteran leadership of the upperclassmen will be key for the team to succeed this year. As the team has grown to a group of 45 runners this year, the senior captains; Mullins, Clark , and Logan Kimmel (12), have been un-phased by the intimidating numbers and are stepping into their leadership roles with confidence.

"With our team growing to an amazing size of 45 runners, it's been hard for our coach to keep track of everyone. But as senior captains, we help Coach Wilson keep people focused during their work outs." Clark said.

Although the seniors play an important role in keeping the team on track, their leadership is unnecessary when it comes to keeping the team working hard.

Fortunately, this year's team has developed a great work ethic after spending the entire summer conditioning as a team.

"By far, this team works harder than any other team I've been on," Clark said.

For the first time in school history, the cross country team won both the junior varsity and varsity races at the West Noble Invitational on September 18. More recently, the cross country team placed third at the New Haven Invitational on September 25, where Mullins recorded his third first-place finish this season.

With the new team and new leaders, the boys are confident that they will venture further on the path to state than any other team has in the past. Last year in the postseason, the team successfully advanced through Sectionals and regionals, and would end their season at semi-state, where they placed 6th.

With such a determined group of boys, the team will surely produce positive results this upcoming postseason. If the runners perform to the high standards they have set for themselves, an exciting season is assuredly waiting to unfold the varsity cross country team.

Christian Clark (12) leads the pack during the Marion invitational.

Girls' cross country team in middle of NHC race

Team looks to finish strong in final three invitationals before sectionals

By Cory Davis
Writer

After a season like last year's, the girls' cross country team has high hopes for this year's season. Coming off of a season with a group of new records set by the team as well as a sectional title, the sky is the limit for this season's team.

Last season, the team won their third consecutive sectional championship. Also, they placed third at regionals and eleventh at semi-state, a feat that could be surpassed by the end of this season.

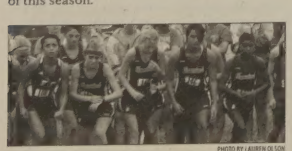


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

The team prepares their stop-watches before the Marion invitational earlier this season

Rather than taking the summer off, the girls' cross country team started summer workouts immediately after the 2009-2010 school year ended.

"You pretty much have to run all summer or you're not going to be ready or in shape when the real practices start in August. It really helps us a lot." Caroline Cooper (11) said.

Starting the season with the DeKalb, Huntington North, Purdue and Marion invitationals, Homestead has proven themselves to be close to the skill level of last year's team. After losing only two seniors, the team has the experience needed to place highly at their invitationals. The girls ran exceptionally well in their first two meets and had high finishes in both events. At the Purdue invitational, the team finished a stellar fourth, after being projected to be no higher than tenth. Later that month, the team improved to a third place finish at the Marion invitational.

With finishes such as these, the Spartans are currently in fifth place in the NHC, while Columbia City sits at fourth and Concordia falls behind at sixth.

"It would be really cool to beat Huntington North, West Noble, and Carroll for Semi-State," Lauren Purlee (11) said.

With only three invitationals until sectionals, the team is already prepping for what could become an exciting postseason.

"The top seven [NHC Conference teams] are making the NHC a tough conference to win," Kayla Patterson (12) said.

A key factor behind a team's success is the overall chemistry of the team. With a team like this, every individual has to have the sense of cooperation and team-work in order to be successful.

In the West Noble invitational, the team placed 3rd overall, beating long-time rival Columbia City. With several runners obtaining personal records, they went into the New Haven invitational beaming with confidence.

Unfortunately, while the varsity team placed seventh overall in the New Haven invitational, the team had two runners finish the race in under 20 minutes, a feat considered difficult for any runner on the team.

"This team is closer as a whole. It's something that words can't really describe," Purlee said.

TRADING WET-SUITS FOR STILLETTOS

On September 11, 967 people took part in the 'Walk A Mile In Her Shoes' charity event. With more than 150 walks taking place all over the country, the goal of the event is to raise awareness for sexual harassment and rape against women. As a tradition, the Homestead swim team takes part in the event each year, encouraging all members of the team to participate. Unlike most charity races, all members wear red high-heel shoes, providing the trademark for the event. This year, four Homestead swimmers took home the gold. Shane Talley (11), Josh Auger (12), Joel Foreman (11), and Taylor Howard (11) linked arms as they finished the mile long race with a four-way tie for first place. The event also broke the "most people walking in high-heels" Guiness Book World record.

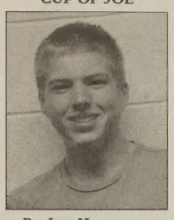
"The event is a really great cause that the team gets to take part in. The blisters on my heels easily made the pain and glory that came with finishing first totally worth it. This was easily one of the more memorable days of my life," Shane Talley (11) said.

Fantasy football season puts Mother Earth's cycle of seasons quickly to rest

This is my favorite season of all. It's not fall, winter, spring or summer. It's not basketball, baseball, golf or hunting season. It's fantasy football season, the only sport where the best action I see is from behind the computer screen, or with glazed eyes as I stare at my television in awe.

With over 27 million players on ESPN.com alone, the attraction that it brings to mediocre fans has catapulted popularity and even created a new type of "diehard" fan. But unlike the past three seasons, I took notes on what was happening during our live draft. For those of you who don't know, what goes on in the draft's chat room could easily be the most exciting part of the draft, or the entire season for that matter.

CUP OF JOE



I thought I'd surprise the 11 other members of the "Homestead Fantasy Football" league by recording their comments during the draft. While many of them would upset their mothers, I've taken the PG-13 and under comments, a few of my picks, and other notable picks, as a conglomeration of what will hopefully be the ultimate live fantasy football draft column.

BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor

What's in a name? Words. A strong combination of adjectives and nouns has me 100% convinced that a strong name leads to a strong team. Last year, my team "Dante Stallworth Driving Academy" made a lengthy playoff run. Undoubtedly, "Rex Ryan's 8 year-old fetus" will be better than last year's team. It's simple logic.

This year's draft started at 10:15, I made it in with only seven minutes to spare. To no surprise, the draft comments I read are already full of excitement, un-needed caps lock, and even more un-needed jokes at someone else's expense. With the clock ticking down, there's only one player who's still either: A) trying to remember his email and password for entering the league, or B) watching re-runs of "Family Guy". Who's the one person who threatens the league of the doomed for failure auto-pick? Evan Rhoades (12), obviously.

Team Bastin -10:11pm: Like, he's always late, ALWAYS.
Team Johnson- 10:12pm: Evan doesn't have a computer problem, the computer has an Evan problem.
Team Rhoades- 10:14pm: Here!
Team Olivieri- 10:14pm: DRAFT> NOW

A bullet was dodged that night, and Olivieri's comment still doesn't logically or mathematically make sense to me.

While we did a random picking for the draft owners, it really is amazing that the co-creators of the league, J.T. Parisi (12) and I, would get the eleventh and twelve picks of the draft. My thoughts going into the draft: "Yes, now I can get a decent running back, and a top of the line quarterback!."

It's almost my pick now, and all of the best players are flying off the board.

Team Hanauer- 10:16pm: The 12th pick is not going to be as cool as I thought it would be.
Team Hanauer picks Ryan Grant and Peyton Manning for the 12th and 13th picks of the draft.
Team Hanauer- 10:22pm: Can I die now?

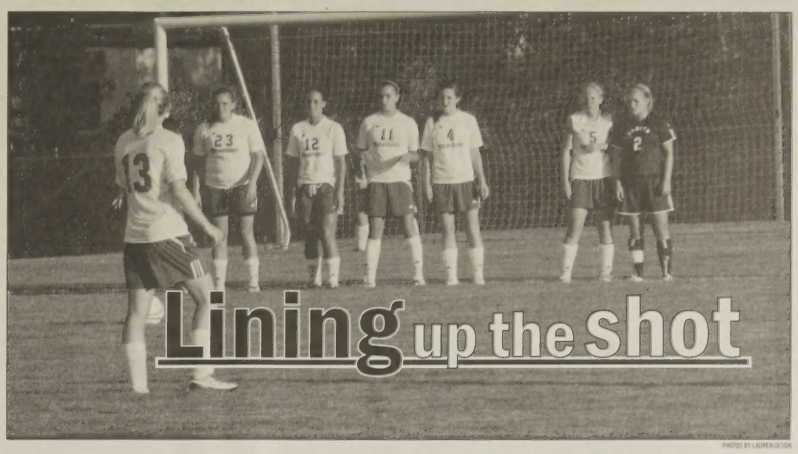
Fortunately, that would be the worst luck I faced during that night's draft. My following picks would be Jonathan Stewart, and Miles Austin, respectively. I picked Jonathan Stewart mainly because there's nothing more exciting than having one of your player share a name with a Comedy Central talk show host. And I picked Miles Austin because it's going to be impossible for Tony Romo to be bad for forever. After that point, I went on to pick eight more sickeningly mediocre players. Ignoring some of my other picks, I'd like to highlight some of my favorite or more questionable picks.

Fantasy Football League Members

Joe Hanauer (12)
J.T. Parisi (12)
Evan Rhoades (12)
Joe Olivieri (12)
Max Isroff (12)
Logan Johnson (12)
Garrett Bastin (12)
Kaleb Mankey (12)
Adam Hackett (12)
Chris Ray ('09)
Wes Ring ('10)
Al Jennings ('10)

Brett Favre went in Round 5 this year, a big jump after being rated in the top-5 quarterbacks last year. Joe Olivieri took his starting defense in the seventh round, and then picked his starting quarterback in the eighth. Wes Ring ('10) telling us he's "Wacco for Flacco" after picking Joe Flacco in the fourth round. And the all-time "are you kidding me" move had to be Kaleb Mankey (12) picking Ben Roethlisberger and Vincent Jackson (both suspended until week five) in the seventh and eighth rounds. I promise I'm not making this up.

Will Ryan Grant ever know how upset I am with picking him? No. Will Michael Vick ever know I dropped him only seconds after the draft ended? No. It's called fantasy football for a reason, but will J.T. Parisi be reminded that he lost to me by 11 points in week 1? Yes, and really, isn't that all that counts?



Lining up the shot

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

Offensive dominance lead girls' soccer team en route to 7-0 win against Bellmont

BY JACOB COOK
Writer

Coming off of an impressive 7-0 win against Bellmont, the girls' soccer team is looking more dominant than ever this year as they continue their regular season campaign. Led by seniors Marce Patrick (12), Kelsey Stephens (12), Kati Vail (12) and Teresa Busse (12), the team is looking to further improve on their already impressive record of 9-2-3.

The loss of eight seniors last year seemed like it would put a major handicap on the hopes of this year's team. However, the girls have proved themselves wrong with their success thus far.

"I didn't think we were going to do as well as what we have done," Emily Bley (10) said.

The new leadership and spread of age amongst players this year has proved to be the perfect balance, as the team continues to improve each game.

"Staying focused, coming out hard each game and playing as a team are the biggest keys to us winning this season," Teresa Busse (12) said.

"We're playing as a team, finding ways to play with the best in the state, and are getting ready to defend our sectional title," Stephens said.

With their only losses coming against tough opponents Penn High School and Munster High School, the girls are looking confidently at the road ahead. Dominating wins have been a highlight and trend thus far, with multiple shutouts, the team has proved it's offensive dominance.

The team's leading goal scorer is Kelsey Wendlandt (10) with nine goals on the year. Following closely is Bley, with seven goals on the season. While they remain undefeated in the NHC, their only losses have come from two state-ranked teams. Their two ties came in consecutive games against Pendleton Heights High School and West Lafayette High School. So far, one of the team's biggest wins has come against longtime rival Canterbury, by a score of 4-2.

> "Staying focused, coming out hard each game and playing as a team are the biggest keys to us winning this season."
>
> **TERESA BUSSE (12)**
> *Varsity Defender*

The talent this year has come from every age group. With a sophomore leading the goal-scoring efforts, a junior leading the goal-keeping efforts, and seniors leading the team, they have a very balanced team age-wise.

Goalie Megan Romelfanger (11) has only allowed five goals, an impressive stat for any goalie. On top of that, she has played seven games without allowing a single goal.

Romelfanger allowed just one goal against Northrop, recently. Homestead would go on to win 3-1.

Several of the teams top goal scorers are returning next year, including Elana Merrit (11), Bley, Wendlandt and Ari Nelson (10).

"We're truly bumping up our expectations this year," Bley said. "We want to achieve more than any of us had even dreamed of last year, and we certainly have the team to do it this year."

So far, the team has looked strong in conference play and is looking to achieve great success in the post-season. However, the team is setting their long-term goals on their sectional and regional tournament play. Last year, the girls won their sectional game, but were stopped short of their ultimate goal of state during the regional tournament.

"We are hoping, of course, to repeat our sectional title," Bley said. "This year, our eyes set on getting past the regional tournament."

The team fell one goal short of beating last year's state runner-up, Snider, with a final score of 1-1 on September 25.

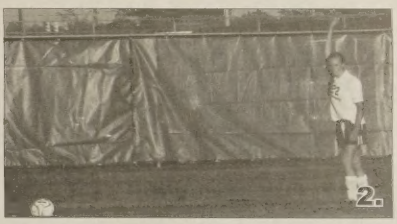
The Spartan's ninth win of the year came against the Norwell Knights, with a final score of 8-0. With 23 shots on goal, and zero allowed, the team showed its defensive strength and offensive power in a defining win shortly before the start of the postseason.

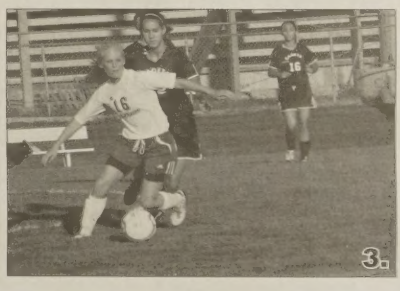
As the girls' soccer team continues to blaze through their season, they look to continue winning streak and to remain undefeated in the NHC.

With only two regular season home games remaining, it doesn't seem to be too much of a problem for the girls to make quite a name for themselves in the area.

▶▶7
Number of shutouts Megan Romelfanger (11) has this season.

The girls must beat conference opponents Norwell and Carrol in order to reclaim the crown of NHC champions. Ultimately, the team's eyes are set on making it past the regional championship on October 20.





1. Kelsi Stephens (12) looks to send a pass to mid-field. 2. Kelsey Wendlant (10) signals her team for preperation before a corner kick. 3. Ari Nelson (11) dodges a defender and makes her way towards the goal.

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Jeremy Thompson brings NFL experience to football team

New linebacker coach refelcts on professional career, time spent at Homestead

After spending two years in the NFL and playing collegiate football, new linebacker coach Jeremy Thompson brings his experience and knowledge to the football team this season.

Spartana: How early into the season did you start coaching with Homestead, and what made you decide to coach?

Thompson: I started coaching this past summer. My first coaching experience was at the team's annual IU team camp. I decided to coach because football is one thing in life that I love and it was one way I could remain close to the game as well as transfer some of my knowledge to younger players to help their game.

Spartana: At what point did you realize that you could play professional football?

Thompson: Playing professional football was always a dream of mine but it became a reality during my junior year at Wake Forest when I began receiving contacts from agents and pro scouts.

Spartana: Who's had the most influence on you during your football career?

Thompson: My two older brothers have had the most influence on my football career. They are the ones that introduced my to the game as a child and have been a part of my football life since. We played on the same high school football teams, and they played college football as well; so they could mentor me in my college football experience along with the normal brotherly mentoring.

Spartana: What have you brought from your playing career to the team this year?

Thompson: There are many things I have tried to bring from my playing career to this Homestead team. First, I try to make playing football fun for the players. Second, I try to let the players realize that football is a physical, intense game, and the more physical and intense you play it, the better and more fun you have playing the game. Last, I try to establish work ethic in the players. Nothing in life that is worthwhile comes easy, so I try to help the kids realize that a good work ethic is key to become a better team, better player, and better person.

Spartana: What's been the most challenging part of making the transition from player to coach?

Thompson: The most challenging part of making the transition from player to coach is learning how to relate to different individual players. As a player, I had a very singular approach to getting ready to play. As a coach, it is my job to motivate not only myself but all the players in my position, and ultimately, all of the players on the team.

Spartana: What's the biggest difference you've noticed in how high school football is played from now, to when you played?

Thompson: Man, you are trying to make me feel old. I didn't play high school football that long ago so there hasn't really been much of a change. The only thing I can think of is the facilities these days with the field turf are much nicer than when I played. I don't even think those thing existed when I played in high school.

Spartana: If you have to leave the Homestead football team with one message, what would it be?

Thompson: One message? Cherish these moments. Play every play like its your last because these moments you will remember for a lifetime.

PHOTO BY JACOB COOK

Jeremy Thompson assist on the sideline during last weeks game against East Noble.

PHOTOS BY BEN MASSELL

let's talk about: DIVERSITY

Students discuss ethnic stereotypes; treatment as minority among majority

The Spartana: Homestead is, for the most part, a characteristically Caucasian Christian population. How does that impact Homestead's character?

Libbing: Doesn't really make a difference to me. I mean, I'm friends with Sahand and he's Iranian and not white.

Emanian: I'm a carmel. I suppose that's true. Anybody can be racist. Sometimes I'm even racist against Iranians. So the fact that the people are white isn't the thing. People are who they are internally, which is racist sometimes.

Syed: Well in my opinion, in reference to Homestead's character, I wouldn't say that it's ignorant as much as misinformed. ... There are a lot of minorities at our school but there's not enough information about each of those minorities, which is why people assume things or don't even really care. It's not really a big issue.

Shannon: I agree with Ayesha. I think that some people aren't informed about different minorities and races and sometimes people can have bad first impressions of people, but I don't think they really go to the point where they are a problem in the school.

Barron: I would say it's a problem. We don't have that much diversity... people just haven't found things out.

The Spartana: To go off what Ayesha said, there's not a lot of education and we don't know a lot about different types of people; How do you think students of different ethnicities, or students as a whole can help people learn about others around the world?

Syed: Well, I know that one of the student government days [for Homecoming Week] last year was a cultural day and that was kind of fun because it got questions going. I know I was in my native costume and other people were too and so people were [questioning] what religion it was for. That sparked some questions that led to information being given.

Shannon: I think if our school was more diverse, people would know more about other religions, races and minorities

Emamian: Learning about different cultures really opens your eyes to how the rest of the world works. Realizing that not everybody thinks that Jesus Christ came and saved us, and understanding why they believe that helps you see differences throughout society. I guess everybody could use a little bit of that [vision].

Syed: I definitely agree because it's not what they believe but why they believe that. Things get taken out of context and I know that happens a lot.

Barron: Try your hardest to not follow your first impressions and meet people, talk to them, ask questions, because I mean, for me, if you ask questions about my ethnicity, I'm not going to [assume] that's racist. I'll answer and help them to understand my culture.

The Spartana: How do stereotypes play into all of this? Are they problems?

Syed: There are religious and racial stereotypes but I know, for me I get terrorist [as a] joke. Sure it's funny for a second, but some people take it too far. Or because of the color of my skin everyone assumes I'm a genius, as are all other people with brown skin. I wouldn't say it's a problem. It doesn't affect me, but it's interesting to see how people take that form of thinking and believe it, and don't realize it's a stereotype.

Barron: A lot of people don't see anything more than [the fact that] I'm Mexican. I am, but a lot of [Hispanics] aren't. Hispanics can be from countries in Central and South America.

Park: A lot of people say that Asians are all smart but that's not really true.

Emamian: Going off of earlier [remarks] where people ask you questions, I agree with that, but when someone asks, "why did those people commit those acts of terror?" I'm okay with that. But when they ask, "why do you support these people?" that draws the line. Then it's past the stereotypes and it gets into racism.

Libbing: I think people need to broaden their horizons and reach out to different cultures. I'm friends with people of lots of different races.

The Spartana: Do you think that's difficult to do at Homestead?

Libbing: No, I think that it just depends.

Syed: I honestly don't think it's that big of a deal at Homestead. I think people are really good about being friends. I mean, [within] my experience at Homestead, in my four years I haven't had anyone not want to be my friend because of my religion or race. It hasn't been an issue. I think people are pretty accepting here.

The Spartana: Have you had any problems or challenges at HHS because of your ethnicity?

Libbing: Not really for me because I'm white and that's the majority, so they give Christmas off because most of the people are [Christian].

The Spartana: Do you think that's right?

Libbing: Yes and no, because no one would come to school on Christmas. I mean, Sahand here even celebrates Christmas.

Emamian: Commercially.

Shannon: I think it's better now that they call it holiday season.

Syed: Just because they call it winter break doesn't mean that more holidays are thrown in there. It's still just for Christmas.

Emamian: Sometimes it's Hanukkah.

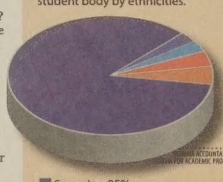
Syed: Yeah, and sometimes our Ramadan is thrown in there because it gets pushed back. ... I remember when I was younger it was more of a problem that people didn't seem to know what Ramadan was but now, with what's going on in the media, I think people are more aware of Ramadan.

Barron: I feel like high school hasn't been a problem. Middle school was a lot more [of a problem]. I would get a lot more [remarks] about if I was illegal and stuff. I mean, it's okay as a joke if you're my friend, especially, but if I don't really know you then it's borderline. People are more mature now.

Emamian: I think it's farther away from the spike in xenophobia that we had after 9/11. It seems to be dying down a little bit, but ever since that happened–I mean, right when it happened people were raiding the streets. I don't know if it's because we're more mature or if we're just farther away from that. It seems to have died down.

SURVEY SAYS

During the 2009-2010 school year, data was collected to breakdown the student body by ethnicities.



Caucasion 85%
Multiracial 3%
Hispanic 3%
Asian 4%
African-American 5%

ESLI BARRON (12)

Hispanic

"People are going to get in your way and try to make you less of what you are because of differences between you but don't let that get in your way. You can do the exactly as much everyone else."

LONDEN SHANNON (11)

Black

"People say I'm African American but I just define myself as black because I'm not African but I'm an America."

AYESHA SYED (12)

Pakistani

"Despite things being said about the Ground Zero Mosque issue... it's really not a violent religion at all and sometimes things can be taken out of context when you hear things in the media I think it just totally gives you a wrong impression of Islam."

meet the discussion PANEL:

JIWON PARK (10)

South Korean

"Not all Asian people are Chinese. There are different groups and I am not Chinese and I think it's discriminatory if everyone assumes that I'm Chinese."

STEPHEN LIBBING (11)

White

"I'm not Hispanic, people ask me that a lot. ... Just because I'm white does not mean I'm a racist."

SAHAND EMAMIAN (11)

Iranian

"Islam is peaceful for most people, some people take it out of context, just like people did with the Crusades, I hope nobody thought that was especially justified. [...] People do what they will with it and that's not what the vast majority of Middle Easterners and Muslims think."

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Issue One

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FORT **FUN**

Although Fort Wayne may not be at the top of the list of most exciting cities, there are always activities and events going on, no matter how small or underground-- check here for all the latest gigs.

OCTOBER:

Greek Garden Exhibit --
July 3 - November 14
The Conservatory's summer exhibit features gardens with a theme of ancient Greek mythology and culture.

Artology Exhibit --
August 27 - October 24
The Artology exhibit at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a fusion between Art and Nature; it emphasizes the interaction between nature and visual arts.

Haunted Castle & Black Forest --
October 1 - October 31
Sponsored by the St. Vincent's Boy Scouts, these scary tours will be sure to give a fright. They are located at 8965 Auburn Rd., in Fort Wayne, and are $9 each or $15 for both. The Haunted Castle and Black Forest are open 7-11 pm on Fridays and 7-9 pm on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Oktoberfest --
October 2
Oktoberfest is an annual celebration of German culture through live music, authentic German cuisine, games, and much more. The event is located at Park Edelweiss in Fort Wayne and is open from 1-5 pm.

Chilifest --
October 2
Chilifest is located at Headwaters Park. There will be chili, salsa, and wing cook-offs, as well as lots of music and fun for everyone in the family or friend group.

Fort Wayne Parks Amazing Race Part 2 --
October 2
A continuation of a previous version of a Fort Wayne's Amazing Race, participate in challenges, solving clues, and touring the city of Fort Wayne.

Fort Wayne Arts Festival --
October 2 - October 3
Located at Jefferson Pointe, this year's Art Festival will include works of art by local and regional artists.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee --
October 8 - October 17
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee will be performed by the IPFW Theatre Department.

Fright Site Hikes --
October 9 - October 16
Sponsored by ARCH, this event will be held at the Scottish Rite Center. It features haunts around Fort Wayne as well as historical information about the city.

Wild Zoo Halloween --
October 15 - October 31
The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo's annual event adds a new twist, increasing the fun for the whole family.

Nosferatu (Dracula) - Silent Film --
October 23
The Embassy Theatre hosts a Dracula Silent Film night, accompanied by Dennis James on the Grande Page Organ.

Fall Festival --
October 23
Held in the historic Old Fort, there will be many games and other activities which incorporate some of Fort Wayne's history as well. The event is free but donations are appreciated.

OKTOBERFEST **ITINERARY**

1:00-5:00 PM:
Fun & Games for the Family
Hayrides, face painting, balloon sculpture, shooting contest, horseshoes
Musical Performances by
The Shire of Shadowed Stars and
The Society for Creative Anachonism
6:00-7:30 PM: Wiener Schnitzel Dinner
$10/person • $7/children 12 & under
Live music by Die Musik Machers
8:00 PM: Beer Stein Lifting Contest
8:00-11:00 PM: Live Music by Haus Musikanten

BEFORE *we move the* TASSEL

MORE **THAN** ***EASY MAC***

With graduation less than eight months away, we realized our time at Homestead and in Fort Wayne is quickly disappearing and before we know it we will be moving into our dorms. This is our final year and we want to make sure we make the most of it by preparing ourselves for college and by exploring all the things we have never gotten the chance to do.

By Kati Vail
Surplus Editor

It's senior year. The final countdown of moments left in high school has finally begun. Some people are all too eager to say their last goodbyes to their future high school Alma mater, whether they decide to only spend a seventh semester here or graduate an entire year early – yes, Jordan Mauk ('10), this is you. On the other hand, there are also those of us who dread leaving the comforting white walls of the place we've called home for the last four years; perhaps you'll see these select people frequenting high school sporting events for years to come, even after they've received the diploma. And as I fall somewhere in the middle of this continuum, it feels bittersweet to know that my days of walking up and down the hallways are ticking down to a finale that's most likely less than grand.

But as our final days of high school disappear right before our eyes, I want to make a tribute, to all the hours spent doing homework (or on Facebook, "doing homework"), all the research papers slaved over for weeks, all the weekends transformed into work time. And with all the time devoted to perfecting essays and raising grade point averages, there have been so many things left undone, so many plans left unfinished. So before we make the overly dramatized walk to receive that little piece of paper, rewarding us for four years of tireless effort, do what you've been planning to do since day one. Whether it's to take a road trip with your friends or finally make a move on the kid you've been crushing on since freshman biology, just take a leap and do it.

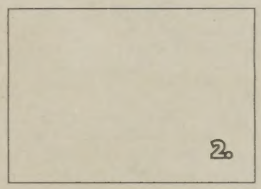
So why not? I've decided to tackle a couple things on my pre-college list, even as simple or silly as they may be. Because what will be better than meeting up with friends at our twenty year high school reunion and laughing about all the crazy things we did when we were young? Jim Finley (12), Joe Hanauer (12), Beth Huber (12), Lauren Olson (12) and Dan Vandeveer (12) decided to take the challenge with me.

Our first adventure was to cross off our list was to learn to cook. By cook, I don't mean reading the directions off of the Kraft mac and cheese box, but actually concoct a real meal. We went all out. Our menu consisted of spaghetti, marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, bread and chocolate swirl cake. Our evening started off with Dan and Jim not being able to open the cans of tomatoes, but thankfully, things started going uphill. In typical AP overachieving fashion, we decided to make everything from scratch, including the pasta, which is more difficult than one would first imagine. Joe and I created a flour and egg volcano (as instructed in the directions), which surprisingly turned out into very lopsided and misshapen noodles, but edible nonetheless. After eating as much chocolate cake as humanly possible and washing every last dish with Lauren, I realized that I couldn't remember the last time I had had such a constant fit of giggles.

Although we joked about opening a restaurant and putting our expert culinary skills to the test, we've actually talked about making our homemade dinner a tradition. While it warranted more effort than going out to eat or making our moms make us dinner, we were able to better appreciate the difficulty of cooking a full meal from scratch. We had fun throwing flour at each other and eating with our hands at a fully set table, and it helped our senior selves be kids again.

GRADUATION **BUCKET LIST**

1. ~~Make a home-cooked meal from scratch~~
2. Go camping
3. Learn how to ballroom dance
4. Go midnight laser tagging
5. Celebrate all of the holidays in December
6. Take care of a child development baby
7. Go downhill skiing in Michigan
8. Swim in the fountain at Jefferson Pointe
9. Go sky diving
10. Graduate



PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

1. The Fab Five reenact Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" after laboring for countless hours in the kitchen.
2. Step one of making homemade pasta was to create an egg-and-flour volcano.
3. Dan stirs cake batter to bake the chocolate swirl cake.
4. Joe preps the countertop before rolling out dough and cutting noodles.

GRADUATION
COUNTDOWN:
250 days

"LET'S MAKE TEARS HAPPEN"

-MAX ISROFF (12)

1.

2.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

By Tess Anglin
Writer

Being a painter is both a tradition and a great accomplishment. One senior is picked each year to be the "head painter," and he picks other boys to paint with him at football games. Once named a painter, boys paint their chests with various letters and attend each football game. The painters lead the cheers and do push-ups for every point scored in the game.

"The best part about painting is running out on the track and leading the cheers," Evan Rhoades (12) said.

Rhoades was picked by Max Isroff (12) to be a painter. Isroff was chosen to be head painter by last year's head painter, Tom Ault ('10). He decides who paints as well as the theme for the games.

"I have been looking forward to being a painter ever since middle school, and I'm glad I finally get to be one," Rhoades said.

For J.T. Parisi (12), the best part about painting is, "picking out the costumes for the different themes and getting everyone hyped up at games."

"The best part of painting is going topless and not being frowned upon by the public for it," Parisi said.

> "The best part about painting is going topless and not being frowned upon by the public for it."
>
> **J.T. PARISI (12)**
> *Senior Painter*

A large part of being a painter involves coordinating costumes with themes for each game. For example, on Hawaiian night, the painters all wore grass skirts and leis. A special plan goes into action to make sure everything runs smoothly for kick-off.

"My assistant painter, Drew Sery (12), and I have a routine we follow every Friday. After school, we go to the crazy party store downtown to pick up costumes based on the theme and pick up paint. Then, we go get burgers for the cookout and everyone starts meeting around 5," Isroff said.

However, there are a few cons to painting.

"I lose my voice after the games and whenever the team racks up more than 45 points we have to suffer through the push-ups," Parisi said. "It's pretty cold now, so these last few games will be freezing."

For Garrett Bastin (12), painters truly lead the school spirit.

"Painting is special not only because we cheer for the football team, but because we also help bring out all of the school spirit within our student section," Bastin said. "When our student section is involved, nobody can beat us."

Girls also paint at games and have recently been adding to the tradition of painting. Lexy Taylor (12) enjoys painting at games as well. Her favorite memory from painting is saying, "kiss her, kiss her, kiss her," to any couple that would walk by the student section.

Kelsey Cochran (12) believes there are no cons to painting. For her, painting is, "getting closer with some of the people in your grade." Cochran enjoys painting and feels she has gotten closer to her classmates by doing so.

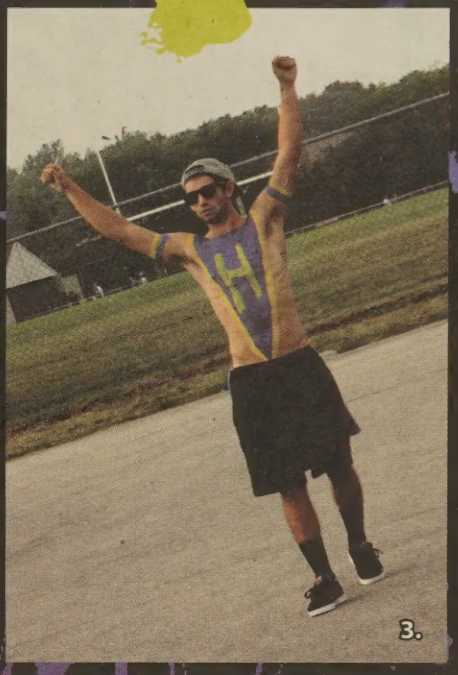
"I just think that since it's our senior year, we all want to have fun, so we make the games as fun as we can," Cochran said.

Painting has always been a tradition and a main event at football games. It is an opportunity for seniors to get closer to each other and unite their class while leading the student section in school spirit.

"I like painting because it's a great way to show school spirit and have fun at the same time," Isroff said.

The painters have allowed the student section to become unified at football games as well as have been a fun addition to look forward to every Friday night.

1. The student section is comprised of 20 to 30 boy and girl painters, along with the rest of the student body who attend the games.
2. Boys senior painters show off their school spirit and pose for a picture.
3. Cole Jagger (12) preps for the game in the sophomore lot.
4. The student section celebrates after a touchdown.
5. Running to the track, Garrett Bastin (12) cheers for the football team.
6. The painters, led by head painter Max Isroff (12), cheer for the crowd and run onto the track to do celebratory push-ups.



3.

4.

5.

6.

MOVIE **REVIEW**

Easy A: Close to Making the Grade

Modern interpretation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" shows the negative impact rumors can have on a high school teen's reputation and social stature

PHOTO BY HTTP://WWW.FILMCRITIC.COM

By Alex Barnard
Designer

Drama, parties, cat-fights and sex are all part of what is considered the typical teen movie. Easy A is one that falls directly into this category. Despite being part of this very generic kind of movie, Easy A breaks the mold.

Loosely based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter," Easy A demonstrates exactly how rumors can get out of hand. Olive Penterghast (Emma Stone) lies to her best friend (Alyson Michalka) about her fictional weekend with a college freshman. As the rumor spreads, Olive finds herself gaining popularity and decides to use it to her advantage to gain some money. Word of Olive's promiscuity comes to the devoutly religious leader of the school, Marianne (Amanda Bynes) who tries to turn her from her ways.

Easy A is distinctively set apart from the movies of its genre because of the controversial aspects not typically found in most teen movies. Numerous standard high school social groups are used as the face of controversy with the use of satire. Although the ending is fairly predictable, much like others of the same genre, the plot and anecdotes leave the audience with something to remember after leaving the theater.

Emma Stone favorably compares with Lindsey Lohan in Mean Girls. With the same, deep, raspy voice, Stone plays a nearly identical role as Lohan, acting as a "loser" who quickly gains popularity. In addition, the cast includes numerous accomplished veteran actors, including academy award nominees Stanley Tucci, Patricia Clarkson and Thomas Hayden Church. The diverse cast gives adults and students alike a rare connection.

As the film progressed, a new ending to the generic genre seemed to be in sight. Despite the anticipation and hope, Easy A concluded with the overused and predictable ending used in every teen movie.

Easy A puts a new twist on the teen movie by poking fun at the primary audience of the movie. Despite the insults aimed at the viewers and some disappointment, Easy A is among a small group of movies actually worth the expensive price of a Rave ticket.

WEEKEND **RELEASES**

Case 39: After a kind social worker adopts one of the children she works with, terror befalls all that associate with the newly adopted girl.

The Social Network: A story reenacting the formation of the revolutionary Web site Facebook, it details the full story behind the global phenomenon.

Let Me In: An unlikely friendship forms between a misfit teen and a young vampire.

ALSO OPENING:
Freakonomics, Catfish, Chain Letter

BOOK **REVIEW**

It's Kind of a Inspiring Story: writers fight against addiction

James Frey and David Sheff's memoirs both detail interactions with drug and alcohol abuse, time in rehabilitation, detox centers

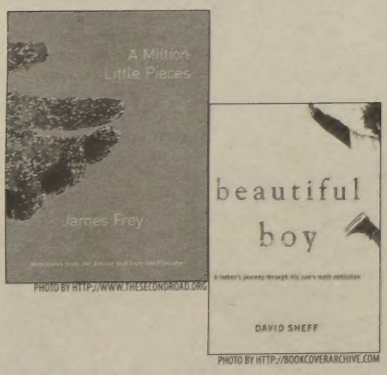


PHOTO BY HTTP://WWW.THESECONDROAD.ORG

PHOTO BY HTTP://BOOKCOVERARCHIVE.COM

By Kati Vail
Surplus Editor

James Frey and David Sheff have one obvious thing in common: their lives revolve around trying to not only detox their bodies of drugs, but their minds as well. In Frey's "A Million Little Pieces" and Sheff's "Beautiful Boy," they both describe their battles with addictive substances.

Frey himself battles with staying sober and rebuilding his mess of a life, while Sheff must watch his 'beautiful boy' go in and out of rehab and continue to be controlled by methamphetamine. Both novels are heart-wrenching stories of the struggle to free both their bodies and minds from drugs and alcohol. Sheff had previous experience as an author before writing "Beautiful Boy." Because of this, Sheff's novel is much better written than Frey's rugged story, but Frey's has more impact and soul because it is much more graphic and visual in describing his initial conditions before entering rehab as well as his difficult journey through rehabilitation and detoxification. Sheff's "Beautiful Boy" gives an interesting point of view, as Sheff is not directly affected by drug abuse, but instead reflects on his feelings while his son is unable to stay sober and off drugs.

Other recently published books also document an author's time in rehabilitation, like Ned Vizzini's "It's Kind of a Funny Story," and it seems to be a competition over who has the best story to tell. Frey got in a bit of trouble with the media, especially Oprah Winfrey, when it was discovered that many supposed facts in his memoir were untrue. Although a slight hyperbole or stretch of the truth is common in memoirs, several important facts had been distorted, and the credibility of Frey's story as a whole was questioned. Even with that in mind, however, "A Million Little Pieces" still tells the story of a drug addict and alcoholic seeking to do right in the world.

In Vizzini's fictional tale of attending a rehabilitation center, the protagonist attends a facility not for drug or alcohol abuse, but for nearly committing suicide by contemplating jumping off a bridge. Vizzini wrote the novel after spending time in a rehabilitation center himself.

Although the memoirs deal with heavy subjects like drug and alcohol addiction, it's uplifting to see the determination in the eyes of both addicts, even if they are tempted back into relapse. The desire to better themselves is a theme that is inspiring, especially when such tough battles are being fought.

Weezy Walks

Lil'Wayne rocks from his jail cell and tops the charts with his newest album "I Am Not a Human Being"

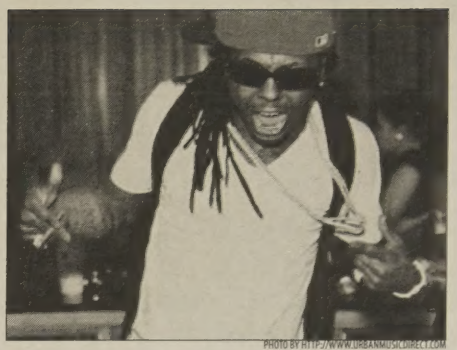


PHOTO BY HTTP://WWW.URBANMUSICDIRECT.COM

By DAN VANDEVEER
Copy Editor

Standout tracks: What's Wrong With Them, Bill Gates, Right Above It

After his last puzzling, off-pitch, syrup-induced rock album, "Rebirth", Lil' Wayne is back in form with his new CD "I Am Not A Human Being". While it is miles ahead of his wildly off-base attempt to push the boundaries of the hip-hop genre, it cannot quite live up to the quality and wide-spread popularity of 2008's "Tha Carter III".

"I Am Not A Human Being" is Lil' Wayne's go-ahead attempt at banking millions of dollars while being incarcerated in Riker's Island Penitentiary. Weezy has been locked up for nearly eight months, and will be released in November. Lil' Wayne is one of many rappers who have been imprisoned, however none have been more prolific inside the cell.

This CD is filled with a slue of infectious instrumentals, but the lyrics and overall theme leaves the listener with much to desire. From the opening track, entitled "Gonorrhea" after the sexually transmitted disease, it is obvious that the CD was meant to provide some random filler for fans who have been craving new Lil' Wayne songs since he went into jail.

Also, Wayne's trademarked one-liners are rather hit or miss compared to his previous work. This is presumably because all of the music was recorded nearly eight months ago, and many of the lines have become clichéd and overused since then. Not to mention the numerous features, with eight of the ten tracks featuring one of his Young Money label-mates. This makes the CD feel less like a real Lil' Wayne release, and more like a Young Money compilation album. Drake, arguably the second most successful Young Money star behind Wayne, is featured on four tracks, however he only drops an actual verse on two of them.

That's not to say that the album is all bad. The lead single "Right Above It" is one of the strongest Wayne and Drake collaborations to date, and has become widely successful throughout the nation. It features one strong verse from Drake, with a chorus and two quality verses from Wayne. Some of the other features actually work well, too. Nicki Minaj, for instance, lends a solid chorus to "What's Wrong With Them", as does Jay Sean on "That Ain't Me". And when Wayne's one-liners connect, they hit hard, and oblige the listener to rewind the track and revel in Lil' Wayne's genius. It's inarguable that Wayne has mastered the craft of the punch-line.

All in all, Lil' Wayne's new album should be enough to tide over his rabid fans until he begins work on "Tha Carter IV". The album was essentially a flex of the muscle, to prove that Wayne still has the ability to sell records, even when he's been imprisoned for nearly eight months. Despite some hit or miss lines, and the unnecessary amount of collaborations, Wayne still delivers an appealing album that will tide over his fans until his next major release. Free Weezy!

PERFORMANCE **BRIEFS**

WHO: Goo Goo Dolls
WHERE: Embassy Theatre
WHEN: October 5
TIME: 7:30 pm
TICKETS: $77 - $93

WHO: The Eagles
WHERE: Conseco Fieldhouse
WHEN: October 12
TIME: 8:00 pm
TICKETS: $45 - $115

WHO: Tim Allen
WHERE: Embassy Theatre
WHEN: October 7
TIME: 7:30 pm
TICKETS: $55.75

WHO: Jason Aldean
WHERE: Allen County War Memorial
WHEN: October 22
TIME: 7:30 pm
TICKETS: $43.30 - $49.15

WHO: Ingrid Michaelson
WHERE: Bluebird Nightclub (Bloomington)
WHEN: October 22
TIME: 8:00 pm
TICKETS: $18

WHO: Passion Pit
WHERE: Indiana University Auditorium
WHEN: October 23
TIME: 8:00 pm
TICKETS: $38

PHOTO BY HTTP://WWW.STATE.IE

THE **CHARTS**

as of october first, two thousand and ten

1. **A Thousand Suns** *-- Linkin Park*
2. **Passion, Pain & Pleasure** *-- Trey Songz*
3. **Recovery** *-- Eminem*
4. **The Guitar Song** *-- Jamey Johnson*
5. **Band of Joy** *-- Robert Plant*
6. **Hurley** *-- Weezer*
7. **Now 35** *-- Various Artists*
8. **Flamingo** *-- Brandon Flowers*
9. **Teenage Dream** *-- Katy Perry*
10. **My World 2.0** *-- Justin Bieber*
11. **Asylum** *-- Disturbed*
12. **Kaleidoscope Heart** *-- Sara Bareilles*
13. **Back to Me** *-- Fantasia*
14. **Lungs** *-- Florence + The Machine*
15. **Thank Me Later** *-- Drake*
16. **Versus (EP)** *-- Usher*
17. **The Fame** *-- Lady Gaga*
18. **Sigh No More** *-- Mumford & Sons*
19. **Audio Secrecy** *-- Stone Sour*
20. **Intimacy: Album III** *-- Kem*

ARTIST *of the* MONTH

JAKE FURNAS

Every month, Surplus highlights a different Homestead artist. This issue, Jake Furnas (12) explains why he is an artist and the influence music has had on his work.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

By Rachel Shinn
Writer

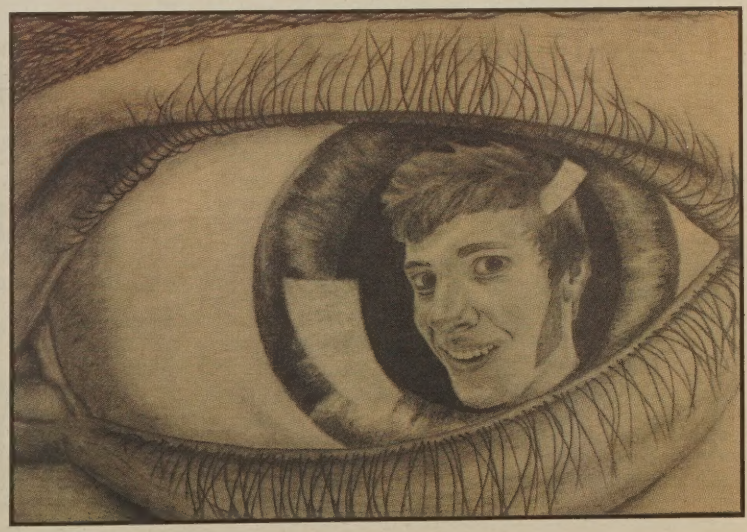
SURPLUS: When and how did you first realize you had artistic talent?
FURNAS: Probably in elementary school. I just really enjoyed taking the art classes. I took private lessons too.

BACKGROUND INFO

FAVORITE SONG: "Over the Hills and Far Away" by Led Zeppelin
MUSIC INFLUENCE: Led Zeppelin
DREAM COLLEGE: Art Institute of Los Angeles
CAREER CHOICE: Undecided

Where do you do most of your art?
Usually just in my bedroom or in my basement.
What do you do like doing during your free time?
In my free time, I usually like to just play my guitar.
What art classes are you currently taking?
Right now, I'm in intro to 3-D art, ceramics, and independent study for 2-D art.
What is your favorite form of art?
I like drawing in 2-D art using graphite.
Are there any other types of art you'd like to try?
I want to try glass blowing.
Why?
I think it's a really cool form of art. I was at this museum and I saw all these glass pieces and I thought they were just really cool.
Who or what are your favorite subjects to draw?
I like portraits a lot.
What are some of your artistic influences?
I don't know, I just have them.
What inspires you to make art?
I don't know, I guess it's just something I'm good at and I like doing it so it's just easy for me.
When and how did you get involved in music?
I got a guitar when I was young and started taking lessons. Then I picked up the piano later.
How often do you tie-dye? When did you first start doing it?
I started towards the end of last year, and I got really into it. I probably do it about every weekend.
Why do you tie-dye?
Because it's cool and they're cheap shirts. It's another way to be creative.
What's your favorite design to tie-dye?
I really like doing the peace sign. It's cool.
Are you pretty excited that one of the Homecoming days is tie-dye?
Yeah, definitely.
How do you think art will play a part in your future?
Hopefully I get a good job that allows for me to do something with art.
What is your favorite thing about art?
You can really do anything. It gives you a way to express your creativity.
Who is your favorite artist or musician?
My favorite musician is Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, and maybe MGMT.
Who are your musical influences?
Led Zeppelin.
What's your favorite song of the moment?
Right now it would be "Over the Hills and Far Away" by Led Zeppelin.
What is your college major or career choice?
I don't know yet. I'd like to go to school for art but I'm not really sure.
What awards have you won?
I got the gold key in eighth-grade and I was in a magazine for artists. Last year, I was voted the People's Choice Award during the Spring Arts Week.
What advice do you have for young or aspiring artists?
Keep doing your stuff. If you like it and enjoy it, just keep going.

"Keep doing your stuff. If you like it and enjoy it, just keep going."



the SPARTANA

issue six
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4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS
Evening of Scenes gives theater students a chance to perform self-written monologues and popular sketches. 2A

LIFE
In a job market negatively affected by the recession, the Spartana shows you how to land a job in "How to: Get a Job." 5A

FEATURE
A winter break calendar fully details the multiple activities available in Fort Wayne over the holiday season. 8A

OPINION
Personal privacy comes into question when increased airport security leads many to debate how much public safety is valued. 3A

SPORTS
The boy's basketball team looks to rebound after a close loss to Bishop Dwenger. The teams begins conference play in the upcoming weeks. 6A

ONLINE
The Spartana's website is currently under reconstruction as it's layout is redesigned. The site is expected to launch again during second semester.

Thursday, December 16, 2010 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Winter season proves hazardous for teenage drivers

Inclement weather leads to delay; multiple wrecks and accidents caused by slick roads

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Southwest received over three inches of snow in the first week of December.

ANDREW YDE
Copy Editor

Reckless driving has been a serious problem in the Homestead parking lots since the founding of the school. Students always seem to be in a hurry to get somewhere, whether they are driving to or from school.

Cars begin piling into the lot as early as 7 a.m. until 7:50 p.m. when school starts, excluding those cars that sneak in after first period begins. By the time school starts, nearly every spot in all three lots designated for student parking is filled by the cars of hundreds of teenage drivers. When the bell rings at 2:35 p.m., each of these students rushes to his or her car to beat the traffic heading home.

"It's crazy out there [in the school parking lots]," Jeremy Tinkle, school resource officer, said.

Reckless driving has become increasingly harmful recently, and Principal Rick Smith addressed the problem in his most recent newsletter.

Many students are reckless without even exceeding the speed limit, due both to the infinite distractions capable of deterring their driving abilities and to the notion commonly shared among teenage drivers that they are immune to accidents.

"Teenage drivers think they're invincible. They don't think it's ever going to happen to them," Tinkle said.

Matt Keene (10) was the victim of a minor accident outside of the freshman academy parking lot exit on Aboite Center Road earlier this year. Tinkle, followed by a precautionary ambulance, was the first at the scene after Keene was rear-ended. Even though it is strictly arguable as to who was at fault for the incident, Keene grew from it, breaking free from the notion that all teen drivers

SEE 'RECKLESS DRIVING' PAGE 2A

Principal optimistic about upcoming pilot technology program

BY DAN VANDEVEER
Copy Editor

The approach of winter break signifies different things to different students: Christmas, two weeks off from school and the end of the semester. This year, the latter is most important, because the end of the semester marks the beginning of a significant change for the technologically inclined at Homestead: the new pilot program will begin. The pilot program will break down the numerous barriers that have previously stood between tech-savvy students and their high-tech devices.

According to the principal's newsletter that was sent out earlier this week, the goal of the pilot is to "identify and utilize appropriate technologies, technology applications and technology-related learning strategies to maximize student learning experiences and curriculum/standards achievement." In simpler terms, the program will test the effectiveness of using technology to enhance learning.

> "The main goal [of the pilot] is to use technology as a vehicle to enhance learning in a way that couldn't have been done before."
> **RICK SMITH**
> *Principal*

"The main goal [of the pilot] is to use technology as a vehicle to enhance learning in a way that couldn't have been done before," Principal Rick Smith said. "We don't want to use [technology] just to use it; we want to utilize it as successfully as possible."

Since having the entire school switch to a nearly unrestricted use of internet could induce mass pandemonium, running a small pilot program will allow the administration to weigh the pros and cons of the program. To ensure all departments were equally represented, the administration worked with all of the department heads to decide who would participate in the pilot.

"I talked to the department heads and found teachers that were comfortable with using technology already and could work it easily into their curriculum," Smith said. "I looked for teachers who already did a lot of teaching outside of the textbook. There were several others throughout the school who would have been comfortable with the pilot, but we had to limit the size so that we could control as many aspects as possible."

Some teachers, however, felt that enough detail was not given out, and declined to be a part of the program.

"I was slightly interested in the program," Brian Nicholson, math teacher, said. "The problem was that we had to decide whether or not to

SEE 'TECH PROGRAM' PAGE 2A

News-Sentinel cuts 13 scholarships, saves 3,000 dollar journalism award

BY JOE JANIZEK
News Editor

After 25 years of awarding excellence in 14 subject areas, the News-Sentinel has scaled back the Sterling Sentinel award.

The award, which previously gave scholarships to seniors in areas such as science, athletics and the arts, has cut 13 of its 14 categories. This year, the Sterling Sentinel will no longer provide awards to those 13 areas, according to a letter sent to high school administrators by Kerry Hubartt, News-Sentinel editor.

"Beginning this year, we will be focusing Sterling Sentinel on journalism nominees only," Hubartt said in the letter.

Hubartt said that while it was "a pleasure... to participate in the judging over the years," the News-Sentinel could no longer maintain the awards in their current form.

"It's a shame [that the awards have been cut back]," Tom Quigley, Guidance Counselor, said. "It was always a good thing for the area because there have been many students across the tri-county area who have received the award."

The 13 non-journalism nominees were previously honored with 1,500 dollar scholarships, while the winning journalism nominee was given a 3,000 dollar scholarship. This year, however, all of the 1,500 dollar scholarships have been eliminated.

The Sterling Sentinel awards have been given for 25 years by the News-Sentinel and Fort Wayne Newspapers, though they

SEE 'STERLING SENTINEL' PAGE 2A

9000
dollars in scholarships were given to five Homestead seniors last year who won the Sterling Sentinel award.

BRIEFS

VACCINATIONS
All seniors who have not gotten their Chicken Pox, TDAP or Meningitis vaccinations need to do so either before or during Winter Break. The deadline for the vaccination requirement has been extended to January. Talk to Beth Quigley in the nurses office for more information regarding the vaccinations.

BOOK RETURN
Students that are either graduating early or switching teachers at the semester need to return their designated textbooks to the Treasurer or their teacher immediately to avoid a fine.

SENIOR PICTURES
In order to be included in the 2011 yearbook, seniors need to have their portrait taken at Prestige Photo Studio as soon as possible. Call (260) 490-1600 to make an appointment.

SPANISH CLUB
Those looking to purchase a Spanish Club t-shirt need to turn in their money to Senora Arias or Senor Peeper by this Thursday. The cost of the shirt is 12 dollars.

INTRAMURALS
Both team and individual intramural sign-up packets need to be turned into the Discipline Office no later than December 17. The cost to play in the league is 30 dollars.

CORRECTIONS
The Spartana regrets to report that in Issue Five, Riley McComb was misnamed in the Fall Play story. Also, Grant Dundra was miscredited and should be known as a percussionist.

Student Government begins charity drive for Blackfeet tribe

Poverty-stricken Native American group inspires school wide fund-raising event

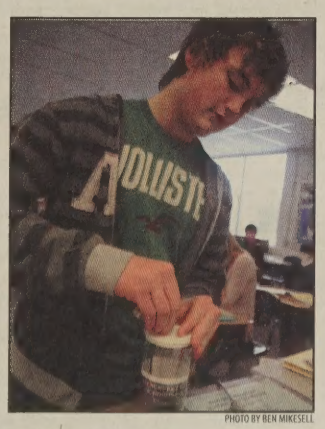

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Cole Jacobs (11) donates money to the Blackfeet tribe in his fifth period class.

BY RYAN BOYLAN
Writer

Homestead Student Government has recently joined with Campus Life, Young Life, and Concordia Lutheran High School to provide 3,207 children on the Blackfeet reservation in Browning, Montana with Christmas gifts. With an 86 percent poverty rate and a 70 percent unemployment rate, the Blackfeet tribe struggles to make it through their harsh winters. The Blackfeet Children's Christmas Fund, however, hopes to involve as many students as possible in raising money for the tribe.

"[Campus Life is] going to be getting a huge group of people together so we can divide everyone up and make a competition out of the fundraiser," Audrey Hoff (12) said. "Everyone's going to go collecting change from people, and eventually we're all going to get back together so that the winners can pie [the Campus Life leaders] in the face. We may even turn it into a fun movie night as well."

Students can also help Blackfeet Nation by contributing money, which will be used by members of Homestead's Student Government and Key Club to purchase toys for Blackfeet children, donating a gift for any child fifteen years or younger, or by eating at Buffalo Wild Wings on Dec. 15, where ten percent of each bill will go toward the Blackfeet Children's Christmas Fund.

"There are families in Aboite Township that are hurting, but we can't even imagine what it would be like to wake up on Christmas morning with nothing," Steve Lake, Assistant Principal, said. "After some students receive hundreds of dollars of gifts for Christmas, it would be great if they could just donate five dollars to these 3,000 kids that aren't going to get anything."

Lake encouraged students to attempt to empathize with the less fortunate Blackfeet tribe's children.

"If I were a parent and my high school student came up to me asking me to write a check for twenty dollars to the charity rather than buying them an extra Christmas present, I'd be really proud of how willing they were to give back to kids that are less fortunate than them," Lake said.

While the main goal of the project is to provide each child on the reservation with a present, the fundraiser also hopes to construct a "Bridge of Friendship" between the Blackfeet

SEE 'FUND-RAISING' PAGE 2A

Student government's semi formal goes smoothly, memorable for attendees

More than 800 students attend 'Midnight in Manhattan' themed dance

BY KIRSTEN OVERDAHL
Copy Editor

Lampposts lit city streets, signs advertised train lines and snow fell in Central Park as elements of New York replaced the typical white lunch tables and student-filled hallways for a "Midnight in Manhattan," the theme of this year's semi-formal dance.

The dance took place on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. in the Homestead cafeteria.

Anticipation for the annual wintertime dance built during the preceding weeks as students thought of creative ways to ask a date and discussed plans for the evening. Tickets were on sale for 20 dollars each during all lunch periods.

The evening was planned, organized and carried out by members of Student Government, especially by sophomore class officers Jack Hagedorn (10) and Bradey Wright (10). The sophomore class hosts the semi-formal dance for the rest of the school, and Hagedorn and Wright led Student Government in coordinating the evening.

"We hoped to provide the student body with a fun and entertaining atmosphere that encouraged them to come. We also hoped that the theme 'Midnight in Manhattan' would provide a unique taste of New York that the students could enjoy," Hagedorn said.

The planning process for semi-formal was lengthy and detailed.

"The sophomore class officers began the preparations back in late October 2010. Coordinating all the aspects, decorations, music, chaperones, supplies, venue, security, theme, ticket sales and maintenance staff takes weeks," Jeanine Miller, Student Government advisor, said. "Jack Hagedorn and Brady Wright ... did an excellent job in planning and coordinating everything."

Student Government enlisted the aid of A Party Apart for the dance's decorations. The company not only provided decorations but set them up and tore them down as well.

Four security officers, two administrators, two facilities staff, ten teachers and five adults chaperoned the dance. Chaperones greeted students as they entered the dance, checked their tickets and student identifications, helped at the water table and strolled through the cafeteria to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Five parents from the show choirs also helped at the coat check.

SEE 'SEMI FORMAL' PAGE 2A

▸▸ SEMI FORMAL CONTINUED FROM 1A

"We are very fortunate to have such a great team of security, administration, parent and staff willing to help," Miller said.

The preparations paid off on Dec. 4, when, despite snowy weather, students arrived in Homestead's own Manhattan to enjoy the evening. Students gathered for pictures and dinner beforehand and then went to the school to continue their evening.

Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors alike danced continuously from start to finish, and despite the heat of the cafeteria and a temporary shortage of water cups, guests expressed the evening as a chance to take a break from the rigor of end-of-semester schoolwork.

"I enjoyed getting to hang out with my friends and getting to know new people," Ashlee Larkey (12) said.

The dance provides not only a fun evening for students but a way to ensure future Homestead events.

"The profits from this event [will] help to fund future events including MORP, Prom, Earth Day, Dirty Duckers, Charitable Contributions and Scholarship," Miller said.

Not everyone chose the dance as their form of relaxation.

"I didn't want to pay 40 dollars to sit in a dark cafeteria with a cup of water," Samuel Miles (12) said.

Among those who attended the dance, though, even chaperones enjoyed themselves.

"I think it is fun to see all the students come all dressed up. I enjoy greeting everyone at the door and talking with my students in a more relaxed manner," Howard Jankowski, English teacher and frequent dance chaperone, said.

Miller utilized her role as advisor to observe the event, in order to make improvements.

"As the first year advisor, I am evaluating each event to see what we do well and what we can improve upon," Miller said. "It was a great evening."

▸▸ STERLING SENTINEL CONTINUED FROM 1A

originally were different than they have been recently.

"A long time ago [the awards] started out with $700 scholarships, and since then the amount of the scholarships have increased," Quigley said.

In previous years, all nominees were honored at an annual awards ceremony held at the Embassy Theatre, where winners were also given their scholarships.

"Although I don't know exactly how much it had cost, it could not have been that expensive," Tom Maher, Social Studies Department Chairman, said. "It's regrettable because it was always a source of school pride to receive awards."

Despite the cuts, the News-Sentinel maintains that they hope to be able to continue to recognize all scholars from area schools without the use of the award, according to Hubartt's letter. The letter said that the News-Sentinel would utilize its "news pages" to recognize students who could no longer be recognized by the award.

Hubartt could not be reached for comment on the story.

Staff members lamented the loss of the award, which, despite having a category for athletics, primarily highlighted academic achievement.

"It was something that caught schools' attentions, which few things outside of athletics seem to be able to do," Maher said.

Homestead experienced various levels of success over the history of the Sterling Sentinel award.

"There have been years when we have had [no students win awards], and there have been years where three or four students won," Quigley said. "We had four or five winners last year, which is a lot."

The award will continue, even if it is now limited to journalism nominees.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 11, and the winner of the award will be announced on Apr. 20 at the Sterling Sentinel awards ceremony at the Embassy Theatre.

No Child Left Behind sets academic standards

Low scores drop school rating from exemplary to commendable

By Laura Zeng
Writer

No Child Left Behind benchmarks were not met this past school year due to the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) of special education students and the attendance of students who receive free and reduced lunch. Because of these benchmark scores, Homestead is now a commendable school as opposed to an exemplary school.

Part of Homestead's performance is measured based on AYP which is determined by ISTEP+ and ECA English 10 and Algebra I scores. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, a piece of federal legislation created with the intent to promote educational progress, requires the entire student body as well as smaller demographic groups within the school to demonstrate academic progress. Academic progress can be demonstrated by either having 100 percent of students pass or by having a 10 percent annual increase in passing students. Indiana sets Homestead's target AYP at 72.6 percent of passing students in English and 71.5 percent of passing students in math. Special education students had 50 percent passing in English and 55.6 percent passing in math.

These results can be attributed to a several reasons, the most prominent of which is the format of these standardized tests.

"We have many non-diploma students with cognitive disabilities who are taking these tests," Debra Cosbey, Department Chair of the Special Education Department, said. "Many of these students have disabilities with print."

> "Hopefully [the test results] will create awareness for teachers that not all students are average and above average."
>
> **DEBRA COSBEY**
> *Department Chair of Special Education*

Department chairs have discussed how to improve these test scores; however, no definite changes have been made. Possible changes include increased usage of math and English labs to address specific skills and the use of non-lecture-based classes.

"Hopefully [the test results] will create awareness for teachers that not all students are average and above average," Cosbey said. "We need to accommodate the wide range of students here at Homestead now that our needs are shifting."

Despite the changes being made in the Special Education Department, the majority of the student body will not feel the effects of the test results.

"The general population in the building is doing well," Rick Smith, principal, said. "Unless Homestead doesn't do well over an extended period of time, the entire building will not be impacted. Nevertheless, there continues to be room for improving all student subgroups' performances across the school."

Homestead continues to achieve academic progress. In the past years, scores on other standardized tests such as the ACT and AP test scores have increased

"[Homestead] is still an exemplary school but not by the state's definition," Smith said. "Academically, we are among the highest in our area."

As a district, all Southwest Allen County schools met their benchmarks except Homestead and Lafayette Meadows Elementary School. As a state, Indiana is making progress as well. 73 percent of schools were either achieved exemplary progress, commendable progress, or academic progress.

Evening of Scenes goes 'superbly well'

Showcase night for theater participants doubles as final

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Allison Thayer (12) performs in a sketch in last Thusday's Night of Scenes.

By Molly Zweig
Executive Editor

Captain Shoelace, Lady Macbeth and an upset elf all graced Homestead's stage last Thursday. This colorful cast of characters, some from plays and some original creations, entertained an audience of 60 as part of Evening of Scenes.

The performance last Thursday night, put on by theater teacher Victoria Malooley's Advanced Theater Scenes class, was made up of many monologues and sketches.

Students voted on their favorite pieces from each unit of study in the class, and those were performed.

"I was very happy with how my students did," Malooley said. The nine students in the class rehearsed for a few weeks before the show.

Even though the show had a few minor problems, its participants said they are proud of the performance.

"[The show] went fantastically, superbly well," Emily Rapoza (12) said.

She also said the best part was allowing the students to display their hard work this semester. Performances ranged from Shakespearian pieces to a scene from "Office Space," contemporary monologues to "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Students' original works were also performed, like Noelle Prete (11)'s "Captain Shoelace" and a monologue called "My Dog Riley" by Eliza Smith (12).

"The audience responded really well and seemed to like it," Smith said.

Evening of Scenes, which also served as the class's final exam, has not been offered to theater classes since 2007, but the performance was brought back as an opportunity for theater students.

"It's a good way to wrap up the semester and show the theater program at Homestead," Smith said.

PLAYBILL

"Captain Shoelace"- Noelle Prete (11)
"My Dog Riley"- Eliza Smith (12)
"Crazy"- Emily Rapoza (12)
"Santa's Little Helper"- Erica Olivero (11)
"Office Space"- Sam Hollis (11)
"Tuna Fish"- Allison Thayer (12)

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: Due to budget cuts, students will no longer be subjected to random drug testing.
Status: False. The school's random drug testing program has been controversial from its inception. Students have voiced opposition to the program, yet it has stayed in place.

Rumors have spread around the school, stating that the grant for random drug testing has expired and that the tests will no longer take place or will at least take place in a more limited way. This rumor is pure fiction, however, according to sources in the administration.

"I haven't heard anything about the program being cut," Anita Gross, school social worker, said.

Students who participate in extracurricular and cocurricular activities will still be tested under the school's current policy. The policy also applies to students who drive to school. Students can also be submitted to the random drug test pool by their parents if they signed a consent form at registration.

"[The end of random drug testing] is just a rumor," Gross said.

For now, students can continue to look forward to being randomly selected for urinalysis tests. The grant for the testing has not expired, and the testing policy will continue to be implemented the same way it has been in recent years.

▸▸ RECKLESS DRIVING CONTINUED FROM 1A

"Accidents can happen to anyone at any time," Keene said.

Jacob Furnas (12), the driver of the car that ran into Keene's, claimed that he did all that he could to bring his vehicle to a full stop, but that he did not have time to compensate for Keene's quick reduction of speed. Whatever the case may be, the occurrence of accidents is untimely and unpredictable.

Jim Finley (12) was also a part of a minor accident during his sophomore year. While pulling out toward the exit that empties onto Homestead Road from the senior lot, Finley's older brother, who was taking him home from school, was rear-ended. The reckless driver who reportedly hit the Finley brothers' vehicle claimed that her flip-flop got stuck on her gas pedal, causing her to lose control.

"Anything can happen in the hustle and bustle of the student parking lots - that's for sure," Finley said.

Tinkle reported that a handful of drivers each year cause the problems in the lots. The incidents with reckless driving are somewhat evenly distributed among the freshmen academy, sophomore, junior and senior lots, although most accidents occur outside of the freshmen academy lot that empties onto Aboite Center Road.

Tinkle has already dealt with five accidents this year. No students, however, were seriously injured in any of the incidents.

"When I'm actually observing things, I'm sure I could catch somebody about every day if I wanted to," Tinkle, who patrols the lots in several different areas on a random basis, said.

Even when he is not out patrolling the student lots, Tinkle insists that reckless drivers are still vulnerable to being reported by parents concerned for the safety of their sons or daughters who park in the student lots.

Despite the difficulty of such a task, Tinkle, along with a few other administrative authorities, does what he can to reduce reckless driving incidents in and around Homestead.

"I try to educate people on the consequences of reckless driving," Tinkle said. "I [work to reduce] reckless driving by being out and being are invincible.

▸▸ TECH UPDATE CONTINUED FROM 1A

participate before we were given details about the program. If it [would have been] a natural addition to my pre-existing curriculum, then I would've been all for it."

Other teachers agreed enthusiastically, and are eager for the program's commencement next semester.

"I'm the only one that's doing it [in the foreign language department]," Justin Peeper, foreign language department head, said. "Mr. Smith asked me a little while ago if I would be interested in doing it, and I said I'd be glad to, and that's how I got on board with the pilot."

There are numerous ways that technology can be utilized in every department, and teachers are just beginning to scratch the surface with preemptive ideas on how to use it.

"I'm still sort of contemplating what all I can do to incorporate technology," Peeper said. "I've had some ideas after thinking about it for a few weeks. I know there's definitely a potential for blogging. Right now we have the ability to use a discussion forum, but it's fairly limited. Blogging might be able to open up a few new possibilities."

Peeper also talked about the advantages of cloud storage, which allows documents to be saved over the internet.

"Google Docs could also prove to be useful... From what I understand, [students] can type [their] papers in it and then submit them to me online. Then it's stored online, and I can pull it up and give [students] feedback, and then [they] can re-open it and see my comments and correct what I think needs to be changed," Peeper said.

So, as the winter months approach, think not of winter weather, stockings and presents, but of the possibilities presented by a newly inclusive technology use.

▸▸ FUND-RAISING CONTINUED FROM 1A

reservation and the surrounding area. However, The Blackfeet Children's Christmas Fund is not the only holiday charity that has attempted to improve the lives of the Blackfeet peoples living on the reservation.

"They don't have a lot of money, so before this year a lot of them didn't even have any coats heavier than a sweatshirt," Hoff said. "But after the Salvation Army went up there earlier this year and provided them with winter coats, we decided that we would raise money to make sure that every kid in the tribe gets a present on Christmas morning."

> "They don't have a lot of money, so before this year a lot of them didn't even have any coats heavier than a sweatshirt."
>
> **AUDREY HOFF (12)**
> *Senior Representative*

Even outside of Fort Wayne, many clubs and organizations throughout the United States are coming together to help out the Blackfeet tribe.

"We've got several Senior Clubs and local organizations that pitch in to help us out, but most help has come from places that are thousands of miles away," Kathleen Maggi, a member of the Blackfeet tribe that lives on the vast three-million-acre reservation in Montana, said. "It's great to see so many people doing whatever they can to improve our lives, and someday we hope that we'll be in the economic position to do the same for others."

Despite the damage that the economy and the recession has inflicted on the inhabitants of the Blackfeet reservation, the cultural practices and traditions of the tribe remain strong and have not been sacrificed for the sake of economic prosperity during these difficult times.

"When a lot of people think of reservations, they think of casinos," Lake said. "A lot of Seminole reservations down in Florida have a ton of casinos, but [the Blackfeet people] don't have anybody that would go out there for casinos, so they don't have a need to build them. They're very proud people, but they're also very poor people."

the SPARTANA

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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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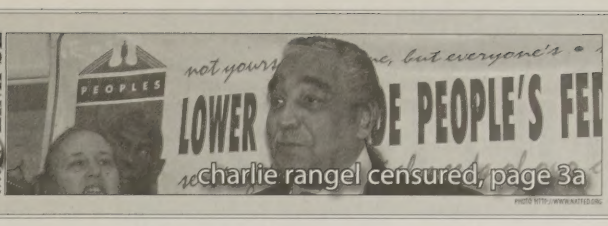
OPINION

the GLIMPSE



charlie rangel censured, page 3a

SACS mission statement change reflects appropriate goals

Alteration in wording shows district's commitment to career-ready students, goes largely unnoticed

By Chrissy Verhoff
Writer

Unbeknownst to most students, this school year brought along a subtle revision to the SACS mission statement: in years past, the statement vowed to educate students by providing "knowledge," a goal that has been changed to providing "marketable skills." With this seemingly irrelevant and widely ignored change in the mission statement, attention still must be drawn to the educational issue at hand. The question is this: is a traditional education in liberal arts what students need to succeed, or is career-specific training more beneficial in the long-run?

The fact is that every student has a different answer, as well as a unique list of classes and experiences that serve as living proof of his individual opinion. While some students find fulfillment in engineering and biomedical-specific courses, others are passionate about the traditional subjects of English and social sciences. A number of students even choose to work at an internship or job for part of the day or to take courses at a local college. Regardless of a student's interests, however, everyone has the opportunity to enroll in the subjects in which he is interested, unlike students at smaller and more limited schools. In this way, SACS actually provides students with as much knowledge as they desire, in combination with the option to delve into more career-specific classes and opportunities. Although Homestead has been successful in providing its students with the necessary opportunities in education, not all schools graduate students as well-prepared.

Of course, schools across America run the gamut; nevertheless, those schools that find their curricula at an extreme must consider opening up the needed opportunities to their students. With a curriculum based solely on traditional subjects, students will generally find difficulty in applying their factual knowledge to an actual career in the future. While this type of education fills students to the brim with knowledge, which seems to be the purpose of schooling, these students may struggle in most career fields. On the other hand, a completely technical education limits students to their specific fields drastically, which has the potential to prevent them from becoming well-rounded and active citizens. The ability to craft a beautiful piece of furniture or effortlessly fix a car undoubtedly have their benefits; however, these skills will not help a person to choose which candidate to vote for, or to understand stock-market trends that may very well affect them.

In many cases, education is seen as a commodity more than anything else. In the past, it was more often considered a privilege reserved for those lucky enough to attend school–and possibly for this reason, knowledge was viewed as something that creates happiness and a sense of fulfillment. While this is still true to this day, education is becoming more and more of a tool used to make a profit. Certainly, if a highly utilitarian "education is one's passion, then it should be pursued. However, students must understand that even a pesky history class may inspire them to make an impact during their lives–and perhaps in the process, create a better world.

▶▶6981

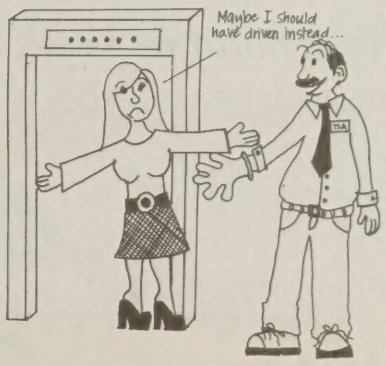
Students were enrolled in SACS in 2009-2010, according to the Indiana Department of Education.

PHOTO BY BETH HUBER

Decisions regarding the district are made at public school board meetings usually held the first and third Tuesday of each month in the administration building.

A matter of NATIONAL SECURITY

Pat-downs, body scans distasteful, but necessary for adequate security



By Adrienne Westenfeld
Opinion Editor

Though airport security was once considered something of little consequence, it has proven, in the wake of 9/11, to be a wearisome, time-consuming, and all-together necessary inconvenience. Despite public backlash (largely from libertarians and civil liberties organizations) regarding the invasiveness of new TSA procedures including pat-downs of passengers often likened to groping and full body scans, the fact remains that the assurance of safety is far more imperative than the avoidance of brief embarrassment.

Those who object to the TSA's regulations must remember that aircraft is not the sole means by which to travel; if the invasiveness is of such distaste to them, they need not travel by air and are more than welcome to journey by by train or vehicle. Despite their inherent discomfort, TSA pat-downs and full body scans are quite simply a sacrifice one must make in order to travel efficiently by air; such preventative measures come with the territory, and those who feel the need to protest would be far wiser to modestly bow out of air travel than to instigate an unbecoming terminal argument that will accomplish naught more than detainment.

Perhaps far more significant than the unimpressive protests of cantankerous passengers are the quandaries posed by racial profiling and extenuating circumstances. The TSA has stated that government VIPs, including but not limited to cabinet secretaries and top congressional leaders, are to be exempted from standard security procedures so long as they fly accompanied by TSA-approved government security guards. Though the TSA refuses to name those who have been determined to possess VIP status, treasury secretary Tim Geithner, FBI director Robert Mueller, and incoming Speaker of the House John Boehner have all been reportedly witnessed bypassing security.

Exempting a select assemblage of government officials from standard security measures is wholly irrational not only as a matter of principle, but of practice, as well; if a terrorist organization were to seek a loophole in TSA procedures, would not transporting explosives by means of an exempted VIP be the most logical route by which to bypass security? In this respect, it seem as though the TSA has veritably handed terrorist organizations an opportunity.

Additionally, while much of the criticism regarding the TSA's intrusive security measures originates from libertarian factions and civil liberties groups, there exists a biting irony in the fact that the aforementioned security measures most worry Muslims, the group most frequently and erroneously targeted by them. Not only have Muslims attested to feeling singled out due to the color of their skin, but Muslim women who wear headscarves and the hijab have verified that they have been pulled aside for additional screening. While such occurrences seem less the instructions of the TSA and more the manifestation of TSA agents' personal perspectives regarding race, one thing remains unambiguous: racial profiling in airports needs to end.

There exists no logic in non-Muslim air travelers who object to full body scanners because of security's intrusion, yet they state that Muslims should be forced to undergo increased security simply because they are unfortunate enough to share their ethnicity with a miniscule radical faction. Such statements are bigoted, intolerant, and completely indefensible– security measures should be standardized for all air travelers, regardless of ethnicity or VIP status, as all travelers are capable of posing the same theoretical threat.

When it comes to preventing a set of circumstances with the capacity to kill hundreds, the answer may be distasteful, but its logic is incontrovertibly clear; American travelers as a whole, regardless of extenuating conditions, need to opt out of air travel or bite the bullet and be a little embarrassed for the greater good.

Rengel's ethics violation censure harsh, political

By Clair Pranger
Writer

It is the belief of many Americans that the American government is a crooked organization filled with crooked politicians. But does being surrounded by others that are possibly politically corrupt automatically mean that one person is?

Charles B. Rangel, United States Representative of New York's 15th congressional district, has been formally charged with 11 counts of violating House ethics rules. These counts include: using his official letterhead to solicit donations for the Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service at City College of New York, failing to pay $10,000 in taxes on his Dominican Republic villa, misusing rent-stabilized apartments in Manhattan, and failing to state imputed income on tax returns.

After he was found guilty of these violations, a full House Ethics Committee of bipartisan members voted 9-1-1to recommend that Rangel be charged by the full House of Representatives with a sanction of censure. Censure is the most severe punishment the House can give short of outright expulsion from office.

On Thursday December 2nd, the House voted 333-79 to censure Rangel, making him the 23rd House member in U.S. history to be censured for misconduct. Though he has been formally censured, he still retains his seat in the House for as long as he wants it and has not lost any popularity among his House colleagues or the people, winning 80% of the vote last month in his 21st term reelection.

> "...but American historians of future generations will look back on the Rangel scandal and know that this sanction of censure was one political origin, not moral."
>
> **Clair Pranger**

"I brought it on to myself," Rangel said.

As for the belief that Rangel is a crooked politician because of his actions, his political record speaks differently:

Rangel has been in the House of Representatives since 1970, making him the fourth-longest serving democratic House member. He has been a member of the Committee on Ways and Means since 1975, and largely focused on the drug and narcotics problem of New York. He also was a supporter of civil rights of Jewish immigrants, and was part of the African American political coalition of the Harlem "Gang of Four." In short, Rangel has done a great number of good acts for the 15th district of New York, and it should be recognized that he is a good man.

What Rangel did does not deserve to go unpunished, but he was dealt with too harshly. He was not among those that committed sexual transgressions with a minor, nor cursed the Speaker of the House, as had two other politicians in past censure cases. His was simply a case of failing to pay taxes and not filing correct tax returns, a felony committed by many Americans.

This does not mean that Rangel is above the law, for no one is, but American historians of future generations will look back on the Rangel scandal and know that this sanction of censure was one political origin, not moral.

The government is shifting back into the hands of the republicans, and the thought of a popular, long-standing democratic power like Charlie Rangel scares them. Rangel is not corrupt; he has been quoted saying that he did not willfully disobey New York state laws and the laws of the House of Representatives to enrich himself. That being said, can this happening even be classified as a "scandal" anymore?

His crime was neither heinous nor obscene, unlike many politicians that have dared call themselves House members. Everyone deserves a second chance, and Rangel more than most.

Navigation 101 little use to graduating seniors

It is no secret that Homestead's advisory program does not resemble the stunning success story propagated by the administration that so often seeks to portray it in a favorable light. Students know better than to accept the seemingly optimistic statistics presented to them simply because they possess the advantage of firsthand experience– they have suffered through the uncomfortable bonding measures, grudgingly discussed such loaded motivational topics as diversity, and heard all too many of their peers contemplate skipping advisory. While the administration has the best of intentions with the current school year's latest advisory development in Navigation 101, such intentions are too little and too late.

The timing of Navigation 101 is utterly puzzling; perhaps, if the program had been introduced immediately after the commencement of the new school year, seniors who had not yet applied to college would have found it beneficial. However, with Navigation 101 only just beginning to pick up steam in the latter portion of October, the vast majority of seniors have made significant strides on their college applications, if not thoroughly completed them, thus rendering the program a futile time-waster that regurgitates previously known information. What's more, seniors need no assistance in selecting a career– those who have yet to determine their intended path at this stage in the game require a heightened assistance that Navigation 101 cannot provide.

One also cannot help but wonder: what does Navigation 101 cost? While it is common knowledge that Homestead's advisory program is funded largely through educational grants, surely the funds allotted to Navigation 101 could be put to a more beneficial use. While the program is arguably beneficial to underclassmen who have yet to determine their college plans and future occupations, it remains a waste both of valuable time and funding to upperclassmen. Additionally, Navigation 101 cannot succeed when the vast majority of teachers exhibit a profound disdain for the program; while such a derision is wholly reflected by the student body, teachers should resolve to do something to alleviate their frustration rather than simply grouse unproductively.

One thing remains certain: advisory will never succeed until the generation of students that experienced homeroom prior to advisory's inception has cycled out of Homestead. The advisory program is doomed by students who know better, students who dream of the greener, less invasive pastures of homeroom they once experienced, and until the aforementioned students have graduated, advisory will remain what it is today: a much-hated subject of disillusionment.

The Ed Board

Mary Distler, Beth Huber, Joe Hanauer, Max Isroff, Joe Janizek, Ben Mikesell, Adrienne Westenfeld, Molly Zweig

{The Bottom Line} While Nav 101 might arguably help underclassmen, its late implementation for upperclassmen and teacher disinterest undermine its value

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Copy Editor and resident rap lyricist extrodanire Dan Vandeveer will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What information do you want WikiLeaks to reveal about the Homestead administration?"

Jake Burgess ▶▶ "When Officer Tinkel actually checks the senior lot for general parking passes."
Maggie Butchko ▶▶ "I would like to find out the administrator's middle names."
Carmen Lowe ▶▶ "I'd like to know the reasoning behind some of the rules they have."
Mark Davis ▶▶ "That Mr. Kintz is actually a ninja in disguise."
Jordan Johnson ▶▶ " I'd want them to expose the Facebook pages that all the administrators have. I know they've made a few to try to "get on the inside" with us."
Justin Norris ▶▶ "It would be interesting to know the background information of our administrators."
Devin Bishop ▶▶ "I want to know how many inter-staff relationships have occurred. I feel like I see an awful lot of staff flirting."
Alex Shin ▶▶ "Their social security, address, and personal bank account information, so when we don't get two hour delays or closings, we can have some revenge."
Jacob Fehihaber ▶▶ "Why they thought using the money for nav101 to keep teachers on salary was a good idea when there are teacher that need to be fired."

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

tips on finding a job, page 5a

PHOTO BY ALLISON BAER

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

PHOTO WWW.THEMEDIAMA.COM

merry meals

Different religious holidays spark time for celebration; special foods

By Rachel Shinn
Writer

The best way to spread holiday cheer is to sing loudly for all to hear. However, there has always been food associated with the holidays that can spread holiday cheer as well. Every year, families around the world celebrate the holidays in a unique way.

Whether one is Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, or another religion, there always seems to be one common factor during the holiday season: the presence of food. According to the New York Times, it's estimated that over 1.76 billion candy canes will be produced, and over 400,000 people will become sick from eating tainted holiday meal leftovers. In addition, the average person consumes about 6,500 calories on Christmas.

"I love the holidays because the food is so delicious," Maddy Govin (10) said.

Although not all families have specific foods they make for each holiday season, some cook traditional meals based on their religion.

"It's common for Jewish people to eat a lot of fried foods during Hanukkah to symbolize the oil that lasted for eight nights when it was only expected to last for one," Halle Shine (11) said. "That's why we eat latkes."

While latkes are commonly associated with the Jewish religion, other holiday foods can be associated with areas or regions around the world, and can date back to a wide variety of eras. For example, the Yule log cake is of French origin, the fruit cake is a British specialty and sugar cookies date back to the medieval times in Europe.

Despite that fact that food is often enjoyed during the holidays merely due to the taste, the majority of the food that is consumed generally symbolizes customs that vary in form, reflecting the diverse cultural, religious, national and regional traditions that were initiated hundreds of years ago.

> "It's common for Jewish people to eat a lot of fried foods during Hanukkah to symbolize the oil that lasted for eight nights when it was only expected to last for one."
>
> **HALLE SHINE (11)**
> *Celebrates Hanukkah*

3.6

billion dollars were used to produce the holiday turkeys in the United States in 2009 according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Mixed views on video games compared to literature; art

By Kevin Kusisto
Writer

As video games continue to rise in popularity, the topic of debate questioning the validity of video games as an art form has arisen. The gaming community has been quick to defend games, although opponents to the notion, such as Roger Ebert, American film and video critic, have claimed that video games are exactly what they are commonly believed to be: kid stuff.

On his blog, Ebert wrote that video games "do not rival movies and literature as art forms and should not be considered art". The Internet, a notorious haven for the exact demographic that has made the video game industry a titan, fired back with thousands arguing for games.Gamers across the world have argued that games are art in the same sense that movies and books are art, but some would argue that the young industry of gaming is, much like early movies, not up to the quality that is associated with art, regardless of the technology involved.

Many popular games today rely heavily on violence as a central theme, which is in fact similar to early films, which were mostly simplistic, slapstick comedies. There were early examples of more advanced film-making, just as there are games that explore deep thematic concepts. Games will probably evolve into a form that will be considered as artistic as film, music and literature could ever be, but many are unsure as to whether or not they qualify as art in their present state.

"Video games are like books," Stephen Smith (10) said. "They are an expression of what the author, or video game developer, imagines when [he or she] creates them. If some of the more unusual works of 'art' out today can be considered art, then I think games can."

> "Video games are like books. They are an expression of what the author, or video game developer, imagines when [he or she] creates them."
>
> **STEPHEN SMITH (10)**
> *Video Game Enthusiast*

"Personally, I think video games should be considered art because the graphics in games are now similar to the visuals in movies, and I think the artists who create games should be recognized in the same way that the artists who create movies are," Katrina Miller (10) said.

Because the relatively new entertainment medium of video games has targeted younger people as the dominant demographic, some students do not consider video games art.

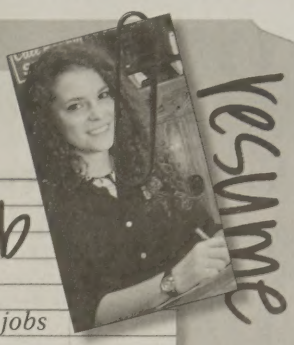
"Compared to movies and books, video games are simplistic and shallow. They seem like kid stuff in comparison," Ryan Griswold (10) said.

The use of motion controllers and peripherals has undoubtedly drawn many non-gamers into the hobby. Starting with the Nintendo Wii in 2006, motion controllers are seeing a resurgence with the recent releases of Sony's Playstation Move controller and Microsoft's Kinnect for the company's Xbox 360, with which gamers are able to play without controller; instead, they use the movement of their body to play the game. With this new technology, gamers will be eager to test these games out during the upcoming holidays.

Video games have developed rapidly, transforming from primitive computer programs to high-definition masterpieces within the time period of a few decades. With people beginning to grow up with video games, it is likely that the public will grow more appreciative of them.

"People tend to accept things the longer they have been there," Andrew Payn (11) said. "Video games will be on a level comparable to movies and literature within twenty years or so."

how to: apply for a job



In a strained economy, teens struggle to find jobs

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Associate Life Editor

In a world of cars, iPods, Xboxes and cell phones, there's always something teenagers want. In their quest to get the latest piece of technology or have spare cash for college, teenagers are desperately banking on their last resort: getting a job.

It begins with an application. Students have to search through countless venues to find an employer that is hiring.

"Start with people you know and ask around," Dave Panning, math teacher, said. "People are much more prone to hire someone they know."

Haylie Miller (11), who works at McAlister's, filled out her application with her previous job experience and volunteer work.

While some jobs may not require a resume, like the Outback Steakhouse where Crysta Maniscalco (12) is a hostess, it's still good practice to make one.

"[Making a resume] definitely makes you look professional," Maniscalco said. "You should include any work experience you have, like babysitting or dogsitting, and any classes you're taking that would look impressive."

"Put all of your accomplishments and activities you have been involved in as well as what you hope to [be involved in] after school," Panning said. "Employers like to hire students that are driven to succeed and have goals in their life."

The next step is the interview process. Employers look to see how well qualified and professional their future employees may be. This interview could include a question and answer session, personality test or any other method of testing a prospective employee's capability to fulfill the open position effectively.

"I recommend looking nice and being professional. Plan out what you want to say before you go to make sure you sound intelligent," Maniscalco, who has worked at Outback since April, said.

Miller got her interview advice from her father.

"My dad told me that if they ask about your biggest fault, say that you're too organized or try too much. Say something that is actually a strength," Miller said. "Just relax and don't be nervous."

Students under the age of 18 who wish to work are also required to obtain a work permit from the school. But even in a recession, a large array of jobs are available for teenagers.

"Jobs that typical teenagers would pursue may not be affected by the slowing economy," Panning said. "The market for teenage jobs might even be helped by the slowing economy because businesses may prefer a more temporary worker like a high school student to do a job that a more permanent adult might otherwise fulfill."

Furthermore, there are some markets and times of the year where employers are more likely to hire teenagers.

"It's easiest to get a job around the holidays because businesses need more staff for holiday shoppers," Maniscalco said.

Panning stated that jobs with flexible hours are better suited for teenagers.

"Seasonal jobs that allow students to work only during specific months of the year would be the easiest for high school students to fulfill," Panning said.

Maniscalco, who got a job because her father was pressuring her to make more money to pay for college, finds the experience to be beneficial.

"[Having a job] gave me the experience of working under a boss and working with other people," Maniscalco said.

After getting a job to help pay for a car, Miller said she enjoys the experience that taught her to always have a good attitude.

"Having a job gave me experience dealing with people and taught me to always put in a full effort."

Application tips

Add a resume
Including a current resume along with a job application shows employers that you are interested in the job, but it also gives you the opportunity to showcase your accomplishments.

Follow up
Making a follow up call within a couple weeks of turning in the application is one of the most important actions you can take to get the job.

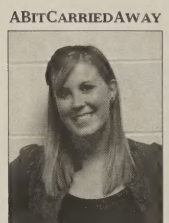
Dress to impress
First impressions matter when going in for a job interview. A suit or dress are not always necessary, but looking presentable and appropriate are.

Crysta Maniscalco (12) works as a hostess at the Outback Steakhouse. She began working in April after being pressured by her dad to get a job. She realizes that having a job gives her experience that will be beneficial to her later in life.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

'Easy class' more than just arts, craft projects

ABitCarriedAway



BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
Executive Editor

I might not be a slacker, but I think I'm pretty close. My good grades don't come from a desire to better myself, but rather from a gift from the DNA probability gods. To be completely honest, I've gotten through school by figuring out exactly what I need to do to get an A, and doing just that. I've mastered my classes by retaining the exact information I need to test well, and have vowed to never turn in a graded assignment late. As a result, I've done well.

This method, however, is nothing to be proud of; I'm not working to my full potential. If I applied myself simply to acquire as much knowledge as possible, I think the possibilities for my future could be, quite literally, endless. Instead, I've skated by, honors student style.

After twelve years with relatively few hiccups in my school career, I entered senior year a little worried that I would no longer be able to get by on my nerve alone. Would AP Biology derail my hopes at one day attending medical school? Perhaps my speech class at IPFW would stain my college transcript black before it had even begun. This year, I did eat a huge piece of humble pie, but it was not the flavor I expected.

When I chose my classes last year, the degree of senioritis that I would let take hold of me vacillated. I eventually landed myself in three AP classes and a higher education course, but did allow myself to give up a social studies elective for an art class. There's a little senioritis right? I thought so too.

One might think that fiber arts is all about making crafts; I thought so. I saw the baskets coming out of the room and the quotes hanging up on my friend's bedroom walls, and decided that was the class for me. How hard could it be to swirl some paint on a paper?

It turns out that the swirled paint designs on paper is called marbled paper, and it turns out that making marbled paper is one of the school related talents that I don't possess. I stayed after standing over the medium no fewer than twenty times, which left me with over twenty sheets of unusable paper. I am apparently an air bubble magnet.

After weeks of frustration in my lack of fiber arts skills, I finally took one of my imperfect papers, smeared some paint over the air bubbles and called it art. With that finger painting on my art project, I admitted defeat, gave up on fiber arts and crossed it off my list of possible careers.

Ironically, I was succeeding in the one class that initially terrified me, AP Calculus. There was a bizarre comfort in the stability of the numbers that I couldn't grasp onto in art class. I knew that in calculus, with a little work, I could do well. Trying harder in fiber arts only landed me with ripped papers and baskets uneven from my overzealous fervor to make them perfect. In math, I saw results. In art, my fruitless efforts frustrated me to the point that I stopped caring about my grade for the first time ever. I started to doubt that I could get an A, so why even try?

It's a bitter pill to swallow, figuring out that, in life, I will be unable to accomplish some things, despite my best efforts. I'm just thankful that for now, the torture I experience from the thing I can't do ends with the semester.

Holiday traditions vary among worldly cultures

Students celebrate, enjoy a variety of winter time activities

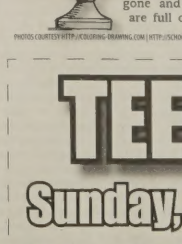
BY DANI CASTONZO
Writer

Anyone can agree that the holiday spirit is certainly in the air. Carols are blaring, people are buying gifts, and festive lights are being put up everywhere. As Americans, these traditions may seem familiar to us. However, these very same holidays associated with these practices are celebrated differently in countries around the world.

Christmas is a predominant holiday in many Spanish-speaking countries, because a majority of the residents practice Catholicism. Angela Bailey, Spanish teacher, lived in Spain for a length of time, and was able to share the experience of celebrating Christmas there with her family.

"In Spain, everyone gets a little Christmas tree," Bailey said. "But that's not as big as the nativity scene. In the church I went to, there was an entire festival of different nativity scenes. The holiday is more focused on Jesus than Santa Claus."

Generally, in Spanish-speaking countries, each child receives one gift from "Santa Claus" on Christmas. However, the gift-giving day is January 6th, which is known as the day when the three wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus. Following tradition, children leave their shoes by the door along with water for the camels the wise men traveled on, and in the morning the water is gone and the shoes are full of presents. This is similar to the American tradition of Santa, with stockings instead of shoes. Hispanic children participate in many of the same traditions as do children in the United States, such as decorating Christmas trees and eagerly waiting for Santa Claus.



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In the United States, people of the Jewish faith participate in Hanukkah each December. Though those eight days are important to many Americans, it's more common to see a Christmas tree hanging in a window display than a menorah.

However, this is not the case in Israel. Although there are some Christmas decorations, most of the country practices Judaism and celebrates Hanukkah, particularly near Jerusalem.

> "It was nice celebrating in another country, but I don't think it's where you are that matters. Holidays are about who you're with and how you feel about what you're doing."
>
> **HANITA EPSTEIN (10)**
> *Jewish Student*

"Here, Hanukkah's important to my family and our friends, but in Israel, it felt like a national holiday," Hanita Epstein (10) said. "It felt different celebrating there because you were actually on the land that celebrated what Hanukkah was about. You could actually see the things that went with the stories."

In France, Christmas is widely celebrated. Similar to traditions in many Spanish-speaking countries, the children leave out their shoes in front of the fireplace on Christmas Eve in hopes that Papa Noel will bring them presents.

Aymone Cauchois (12), a foreign exchange student from France, will be celebrating her first Christmas in America.

"Christmas will different than the others year because I do the same thing every year in France and this year will be with another family," Cauchois said. "Its a little sad, too, because its not my real family. But that makes it exciting too."

Individuals in Germany celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6th, in addition to Christmas. The children are also known leave their shoes in front of the door for St. Nicholas to leave them presents. Instead of receiving presents under the tree on Christmas, Santa brings them on Christmas Eve.

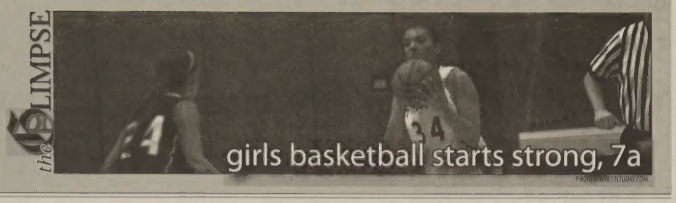
Despite these varying traditions in different countries, many agree that the festivities, family, and friends are premises of holidays in any part of the world.

"It was nice celebrating in another country," Epstein said. "But I don't think it's where you are that matters. Holidays are about who you're with and how you feel about what you're doing."

TEEN NIGHT
Sunday, December 19, 2010
CRAZY PINZ ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
9 p.m. to midnight - $8 bring this coupon for $2 off
ask about our New Years Eve Teen Party

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE



Hockey team battles against cities biggest rivals: Snider, Carroll

By Joe Hanauer
Sports Editor

Coming off one of their biggest margins of victory this season, the Homestead hockey team prevailed once again against the North Side Redskins last Wednesday night in a stunning 9-2 victory. Although the team scores an average of 5.14 goals per game, last week's victory proved Homestead's dominance in the Fort Wayne Area High School Hockey League.

After suffering back-to-back losses to league rivals Snider and Carroll, the Spartans knew that if they had any hope of returning to city championship glory, they would need to turn around their two-week slump. With a record of 4-2-1 in in-league play before last Wednesday's game, and a record of 2-3 in cross-over play, the team understood the importance last week's game before the puck hit the ice.

Unlike the NHC Conference system that most Homestead sports work under, the FWAHSHL works under a point system where points are rewarded to teams for not only wins, but ties as well. Currently, Homestead sits in second place behind Carroll; coincidentally, Carroll, beat Homestead 2-0 on November 24. As of December 14, Carroll has 14 points while Homestead is in possession of only nine.

> "The defense still has been a big part of the success by staying tough and physical."
>
> **PAUL LEE (10)**
> *Forward*

Forwards Paul Lee (10), Jon Van Gessel (12) and Joel Berthold (09) were the contributing goal-scorers in last Wednesday's game. Van Gessel would lead the game in goals, scoring a hat-trick.

"The defense still has really been a big part of the success by staying tough and physical." Lee said.

On the other side of the rink, Russel Smascz (9) would only allow two goals to find the back of the net, while stopping a whopping fifteen shots.

For most games this season, Nick Rahn (12) has been the starting goalie for the Spartans, but last Wednesday's game gave Smascz a chance to prove himself as a worth replacement for the soon-to-be graduating Rahn. Along with Rahn, the majority of this season's starters will be replaced next season. For the time being, the team looks to take advantage of their multiple seniors.

"Last year we had 3 of the top 10 point holders in the state and since all of them graduated last year it has greatly impacted the team this year," Bragalone said.

The team's next league game is next Wednesday when they face off against the Leo Lions that the team previously beat 8-1.

With roughly half of their season over, the hockey team is confident heading into a winter break that will allow them to improve on their already positive record.

COMING TOGETHER AS ONE TEAM

PHOTO BY JACOB COOK

Joe Oliveri (12), Drew Sery (12), Evan Rhoades (12), Garrett Bastin (12), Brad Koepecky (12) and Adam Hackett (12) are the seniors this year on the boys Varsity team.

By Joe Laughlin
Writer

As Evan Rhoades (12) creates space for himself in the game against Wayne High School, he is passed the ball deep into the corner, just behind the three point arc. While Rhoades pulls up and releases his shot, the crowd is silenced. Every person in the stadium is watching the ball intently, as it travels through the air to make contact with the rim. The ball bounces on the rim once, and then it bounces twice, until it antagonizingly falls back to the hands of a Wayne player outside of the net.

Although this moment was not characteristic of Rhoades, who went on to score 10 points throughout the night, it did seem to epitomize the boys basketball team's season thus far. While the team went on to defeat Wayne, the excerpt from the game does metaphorically represent the overall season; in contrast to playing well frequently, it appears as though the team's small mistakes have caused them to beat themselves against several tough opponents.

Four games into the season, the team has gone 2-2. They have earned two spectacular wins against Wayne and Huntington North, but have unfortunately lost to Merrillville and Harding.

In the team's opening night, the Spartans defeated rival Huntington North (2-1) with ease. The Spartans allocated the ball effectively on offense, and refused to alleviate any pressure from the Vikings on defense. Starting the season off on a good note, Homestead was able to win 57-45.

The victory over Wayne (2-2) held a completely different story. At the start of the game, the Spartans found themselves down to a seemingly superior team. Struggling to find open shots early on and lacking communication on defense, the Generals began to exploit Homestead's weaknesses. Fortunately, by pulling themselves together in the second quarter, the team rallied back to prevail over Wayne 48-41.

While the two home wins do show light upon the upcoming season, the team has realized they have room for improvement, following two early losses on the road.

On the first away game, which was against Merrillville (2-0), the team found themselves playing an extremely prestigious team. Coming off of a long, cramped bus ride, the players seemed unfocused on the court. Using their size and speed to catch the Spartans on their heels, Harding defeated Homestead by a score of 75-55.

"We learned that we needed to control the glass," Rhoades explained, "And we also need to play better mentally."

Playing against Harding (1-0) after their loss to Merrillville, the team appeared to be slightly anxious on the court. The Spartans seemed rushed while attacking, and were forcing unknowledgeable shots. Though the team gave it their maximum effort, the Harding team capitalized better on offense, and the Spartans lost 61-46.

The mental lapses that contributed to their losses are what sparked the assumption that the team has been beating themselves lately. Fortunately, the Spartans are able to recognize their weaknesses, and will be working to eliminate them.

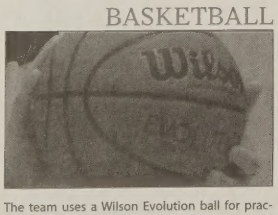
For example, though much of the line-up has been playing together for a long time, the players have been unable to develop a chemistry that is crucial to their success. To evidence the absence of equal chemistry, the scoring of the past few games has been unevenly distributed. Against Harding, Sery alone contributed to 24 of the team's 46 points. Similarly against Wayne, Sery tallied 17 of the team's points, which was the most out of all of the players on Homestead's team.

"When we get through this tough stretch of the season, we will have already found our identity as a team, and play much better together," Garrett Bastin (12), team captain, explained.

Moreover, the boys basketball team is still experiencing the detrimental loss of Zach Terrell (11), shooting guard. In the early weeks of practice, Terrell sprained an ankle during one of the team's drills The team is hoping to have him back as soon as possible, will be glad to have Terrell's leadership out on the court again.

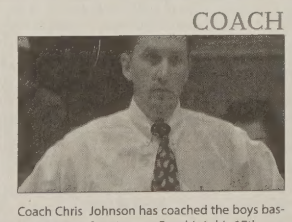
Though the boys' basketball team may have some aspects of their game to improve, the players are more than willing to take the measures to better themselves. With their sights already set winning both a conference and a sectional championship, the Spartans assuredly have an exciting season awaiting them

BASKETBALL



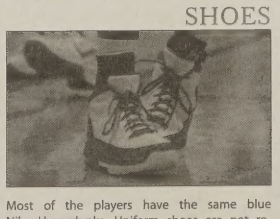
The team uses a Wilson Evolution ball for practice as well as games. The Indiana High School Athletic Association requires schools to use the Evolution ball in games for consistency.

COACH



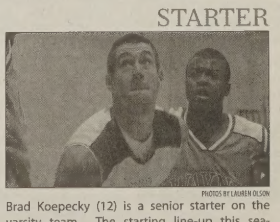
Coach Chris Johnson has coached the boys basketball team for 12 years. But this is his 17th season overall coaching basketball. Prior to coaching at Homestead he was at Bishop Dwenger.

SHOES



Most of the players have the same blue Nike Hyperdunks. Uniform shoes are not required, so some have different styles. The boys where the shoes at practice and games.

STARTER



PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

Brad Koepecky (12) is a senior starter on the varsity team. The starting line-up this season ncludes Nick Gambol (11), Drew Sery (12), Joe Oliveri (12) and Evan Rhoades (12).

Wrestling team proves conference dominance at New Haven Invitational

Upperclassmen lead team's strong determination, perseverance despite numerous injuries

By Corey Davis
Writer

In a sport where one's own brute strength and mental strategy is their only weapon to win, and the only protective gear they have to prevent themselves from injury is their own body and a small piece of head gear, wrestling has been an exhausting experience for many student athletes. Regardless of the hardship many of the wrestlers go through, the Homestead Spartans have shown to rise above it in the past with successful season that have defined their dominance in the NHC Conference.

To start off this season, the boys faced other conference teams in an invitational at New Haven. They went 4-1, losing only to South Adams and would beat Marian, Snider, Churubusco and Heritage. Both Brad Mills (12) and Andrew Bowman (12) went undefeated at the meet.

The Spartans ended a little short in their next meet against Dekalb, losing 25-40. A few of the guys still held their own, such as Mills winning by points, Bowman ending his match with a pin, as well as Kody George (11) defeating his opponent in the team's loss.

Over the past weekend, the JV squad also held a tournament against the conference. Bailey Miller (9) and Brandon Hadaway went undefeated (3-0), Britton Hardy (10) and David Strzlecki (10) both finished (2-1) and Kyle Plasterer (10) ended his meet at (3-1), each of his wins resulting from pins.

In the mix of things, most spectators and followers of wrestling truly do not understand the process most of the boys have to go through. This includes: the constant threat of being injured, wrestle-offs and making weight.

Just in this year alone, the Spartans have suffered a group of severe injuries. Dane Reid (12) in the beginning of the year tore a tendon in his foot just from a basic drill during practice. Not to mention, was out for almost the entire last half of last season as well due to a cauliflower infection in his ear which required numerous surgeries. Cauliflower ear is a deformation of the ear due to repeated injury.

Dakota Jacobsen (10) also suffered a severe injury due to out of sport activities. Minor injuries occur on a day to day basis, mainly in the neck and shoulder area, as well as numerous broken noses.

Just like in any other sport, in order to wrestle at a varsity level, teammates have to go head to head at an intense level to outdo the other so that they can get that spot. In wrestling, this is when a wrestle off must occur between whomever is in that certain weight class. This creates a lot of tension throughout the wrestling room, but also increases individual motivation. The only downside to wrestle-offs is that it increases the chance of injury, it creates a lot more opportunity for injury.

One of the most underrated aspects to wrestling is the efforts being made so that they can make weight. Making weight involves cutting weight to an exact number and not going even a tenth of a pound over. From classroom to classroom, the topic of discussion involves either exhaustion or hunger, but in order to make weight for wrestlers, some may be as drastic as running numerous miles before the weigh in or sitting in a sauna for countless hours to sweat off the necessary pounds. Others take steps such as eating only certain amounts during lunch and having to keep a constant diet.

"It can be very difficult and tiring but as long as you keep a strict diet and work hard, but the results take care of themselves," Justin Norris (12) said.

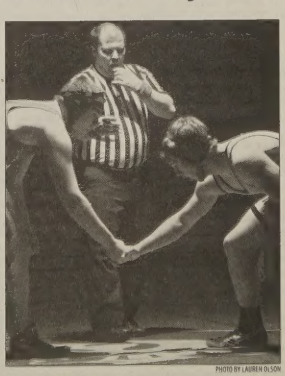


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Above: Josh Kryder (12) faces off against an opponent during a home match against NHC rival Dekalb.

Swim team falls to Carroll; places fourth in Homestead Invitational

North Central, Chesterton and Yorktown take down Spartans at first major meet of season

BY CONNOR O'HARA
Writer

Beginning their season with an inter-squad swim meet, the boys' and girls' swim team officially began their season earlier this weeks against East Noble. Unlike the other winter sports teams, the swim team begins their season relatively early, and is generally one of the last to finish.

At this point in the season, the teams feels confident after their dominating finish at East Noble, with a final score of BLANK. The meet against East Noble will prove to be one of the easier meets this season.

"I'd say at this point our confidence is pretty high. We are training hard and it is showing in our season," Sarah Lohman said.

The inter-squad meet that kicked off the swim team's season was a success. The Spartans are competing at a level in which they both work hard, but keep the mood light so they can have fun as well.

After their inter-squad meet the Spartans looked amongst themselves with confidence as they had finally seen some of what their full potential would look like later on in the season, when it truly mattered.

Their swim meet against East Noble was a fantastic way for the Spartans to start off their season. The boys and girls led themselves to their first win, as well as some of the swimmers attaining personal records in the meet.

Even though the state championship may be a ways away, many swimmers on the team are already looking toward that challenge that many teams bring to the championship each year.

"One of the major goals for this season is to give Carmel a challenge at state this year," Mariah Hamil (11) said.

Carmel beat out Homestead last year by finishing first in the state championship, while Homestead would go on to finish tenth.

One thing the Homestead swim team certainly doesn't lack is determination and perseverance. The swim team has a legendary reputation for uncanny amounts of hours spent in the pool working day after day on perfecting their technique.

"It's true that some of the practices aren't the most convenient, but in the end it's all worth it because you're spending time in the pool getting better every day. The practices are hard, but you learn to get used to it," Blake Johnson (11) said.

In one of the team's most recent meet, they lost by a mere ten points to sectional rival Carroll. The team is confident they will beat them when they will inevitably swim against them again in the postseason.

The team's most difficult meet came last Saturday in the Homestead Invitational. Among the five teams in attendance, Homestead was joined by North Central, Chesterton, Yorktown and Northridge. Unfortunately, Homestead would place fourth amongst the five teams.

As the swim team's season begins to unfold, many of the swimmers are optimistic as to what lies ahead of them as their season progresses, and they were certainly try their hardest to reach all of their goals for this upcoming year.

PHOTO BY JACOB COOK

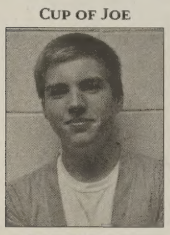
Reagan Cook (9) finishes the 100-meter butterfly.

NCAA investigation favors skilled athletes

In the midst of an era where pay-to-play athletics have swarmed the college sports, officials have been cracking down harder than ever.

But more recently, accusations have been floating around Auburn's star QB Cam Newton was offered a payment of $180,000 to play at Mississippi State. In the midst of a post-Reggie Bush era, many Heisman Award voters started re-considering casting their vote for Newton for the Heisman trophy. Totally reasonable. It's only been five years since Bush won the Heisman, and only three months since his title was stripped from him. No one wants to make the same mistake twice, and the timing for Newton's allegations couldn't have come at a worse time.

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor

What really blows me away is how quickly the NCAA began and ended the investigation. The Duke lacrosse team scandal carried on for more than year, even Kelvin Sampson's text message fiasco carried on for a few months. But as soon as college football's golden boy loses his eligibility, it seemed like the investigative team pulled out all the stops to make sure he'd be able to play that following Saturday. For those of you unaware, Newton lost his eligibility for a whopping two days. I'm not saying that they need to work slower or anything, but it seems like the investigation may have been shortchanged by the NCAA in fears of losing viewers because of Newton's absence on the field.

More than anything, I was shocked by the way the NCAA justified Newton's re-instatement. Essentially, they concluded that since Newton's father, Reverend Cecil Newton was the one shopping him around to other universities without Cam's knowledge, his son shouldn't be punished.

Isn't the NCAA only creating a loop-hole for themselves by allowing parents to shop their child around, as long as their child doesn't find out? Sure, Cam "didn't" know about his fathers actions and it would've been a shame to see him out of the SEC Championship game. Understandably, the ratings for the game would've sky-rocketed to the ground had Cam not played. But what happens if the investigation group finds something after the Heisman voting? Or even after his re-instatement for that matter.

While the investigative group found nothing surround the allegations around Cam Newton, that's not to say the case is shut yet. The NCAA said this following his re-instatement, "Based on the information available to the reinstatement staff at this time". This lead me to question whether his re-instatement was premature, or whether they decided to let him play while they finished the investigation.

Whether the media blew this story out of proportion or the NCAA short-handed this investigation, there's one thing I know is true, Scam Newton is starting to sound like a pretty good nickname right?

PHOTO BY LAUREN COOK

Girls' basketball team continues undefeated season after win against New Haven

BY JACOB COOK
Writer

Continuing their effort to have a successful season, the girls' basketball team is coming off of another big win against conference opponent Norwell last Saturday. The team's success so far has proved itself through their overall record of 5-0, with big wins over key opponents such as Norwell and Huntington North. In hopes of a better regular season than last year and a sectional title, the girls' basketball team is picking up their intensity in practices and games.

Seniors Whitney Neal (12), Jena Hamrick (12), and Kelsey Futter (12) have been leading this year's very successful team in both practice and in games.

"Even though we're 5-0 we still have a lot of teams to beat and a lot of games to play," Futter said. Futter has been part of Homestead's basketball program since her freshman year.

So far the team has had great success in their regular season, with a perfect record of 5-0. Big wins have come against opponents Huntington North, with a score of 40-39, and Marion with a score of 52-39. The win against Huntington North has become a major confidence booster for the team as a whole, considering how the team's sectional run was cut short last year in the 3rd round with a score of 62-54.

The team's latest win against Norwell is certainly their most prominent win of the year so far. According to the IHSAA's most recent coach's poll, Norwell is the top-ranked team in the state in class 3A. Top scorers for the team against Norwell include junior Carmen Lowe (11) and sophomore Emily Bley (10), scoring 12 and 11 points respectively.

"[The game against] Norwell was an amazing win for us, it took a lot of effort on all of our parts," Lowe said. Lowe has consistently been one of the team's top scorers and leaders on the court. "If we keep working hard and staying focused we will certainly keep up our good work," Lowe continued.

> "If we keep up our intensity though, there is no way we can't win."
>
> **KELSEY FUTTER (12)**
> *Varsity Guard*

For the most part, the girls believe that if they can maintain their intensity in practices and games, they will be able to continue their success.

"Our tough games in the rest of the regular season will be Snider and Columbia City," said Futter. Snider is currently ranked 13th in class 4A, the same class as the Spartans. "If we keep up our intensity though, there is no way we can't win," Futter continued.

Team chemistry has not been a problem for the girls' team either. A balance in the age spread on the team has kept a good balance and has helped the team mesh together.

"We have a very mature team," Lowe said. "We really bond well together, the rest of this year is going to be amazing for us as a team."

With good depth in each position on the court, the spread of talent has helped as well.

"We all work really well together, but we all play our own individual role and step up to our challenges," continued Lowe. "I myself couldn't achieve anything without my teammates."

The team is setting it's sights on a sectional title for the end of this year, after last year's disappointing defeat in the 3rd round of their sectional tournament. Strong wins against regular season opponents have propelled the teams confidence and reputation amongst their future opponents.

"If we can keep up playing how we have been, which we can, than the sectional title is certainly ours," said Futter.

Through their outstanding team chemistry and intensity, the girls basketball team has gotten off to a great start to their season.

Left: Coach Rod Parker meets with his team during a timeout. Right: Carmen Lowe (11) lines up her shot for a free throw.

LETTER to the *editor*

Students often find themselves unintentionally breaking school rules, but many students are being disciplined not only for breaking written rules listed in the student handbook, but for breaking rules that are not written or defined so clearly. Friday, Dec. 3 I attended my first home boy's basketball game of the season. I walked in, hyped beyond belief, ready to cheer on my classmates as they tried to defeat Wayne. I entered the gym as the varsity team warmed-up and proceeded to take the senior seats in the front row of the student section. This privilege is part of the excitement of being a senior. Just as parking in the senior lot, participating in senior skip day and becoming infected with the contagious "senioritis," seniors as well look forward to this right of passage at basketball games. But sure enough, I was greeted with an unwritten and undefined rule: the student body, as of this year, is not allowed to stand on the gym floor during home basketball games. However, this recent rule is understandable. I assume the administrators are trying to protect the players and make it easier for parents and students to enter or exit the gym.

But, I unknowingly took my front row seat on that Friday night. Another student quickly informed me that I couldn't sit there; but we needed to move up another row. After having watched seniors from years before me jump up and down as they cheered on the team from the first row, I was upset I couldn't follow in their footsteps. Rather than arguing, I listened to my classmate and avoided causing trouble, but I was still confused as to the need to move up a row of bleachers.

The game started with low spirits from the notorious student section, because of the lack of senior leaders heading up the cheers. From my second row seat, I was able to observe everyone entering and leaving the gym. A student walked in pushing his wheel-chair bound friend; he positioned the wheel-chair on the floor right next to the bleachers and took a seat in the front row, right beside his friend. Little to his knowledge, a new rule was recently put to action. This rule that cannot be found described in the student handbook, plastered on the walls or told to students over the morning announcements. But it only took one short minute for one of the policing officers to notice this kind student's innocent wrong-doing. The student was informed that he could not sit in his from row seat, but he tried to explain to the officer that he came to watch the game with his disabled friend. But a rule is a rule even if it not as clearly defined in ink as the dress code policy. So the student stayed for a while, but then left the game early because his friend was forced to sit by himself in the corner next to the bleachers, apart from the student section.

During the third quarter of the basketball game, a timeout was called on the floor and my friend, walking back from the concession stand, stopped to talk to me. He, however, had forgotten the new rule and was standing on the first row of bleachers looking up to me as I was standing on the second. Fortunately, Homestead has officers stationed right next to the gym door ready to take action of any wrong-doing in record breaking time. One of these officers approached my friend with a full head of steam and grabbed his attention by a tap on the leg. Based on the officer's facial expression and speedy approach, it seemed as though my friend had just triggered a code red, by either endangering the students or possessing a weapon. This officer did not just kindly ask him to step up a row, but he scolded him as if my friend had committed a serious offense. However, the enforcing did not stop there. Although my friend quickly stepped up a row to please the police officer's demands, the officer continued to yell at him as though he was disrespecting the officer's authority, almost as if he was attempting to make a scene out of the incident. Finally, rule enforcer calmed and walked back to his seat positioned next to his colleagues. Within seconds, however, the officer, from his seat, was communicating with the student again. He asked the student, "So you think this is funny?" Even after the student obeyed the officer by moving up a row and ingested the shouts and screams, the student was rattled by the officer's belittling behavior. The student looked back to the officer and threw his hands up in disbelief as he just wanted to be left alone after having followed the offer's orders. But the officer finished by calling the compliant student over to his floor seat to say a few more words.

When the scene was finally over, the student returned to his second row seat and the administrator returned to his business monitoring the game. As the buzzer cued the end of the game, my friend tried to leave the gym along with the mass of students but was abruptly stopped by the same troublesome officer. At this time, the officer found the need to threaten the student by admittance to future athletic events this year, because of his rule breaking offense. This officer, however, did not feel as though an unnecessary threat was not enough torment to this student for committing the unwritten misbehavior. The officer felt the need to threaten him again. This action would tremendously damage this top-swimmer's athletic career if this threat were to become reality. All of this trouble resulting from breaking an unwritten rule.

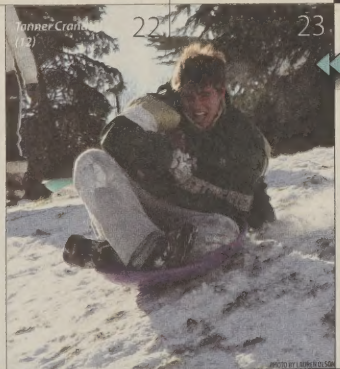
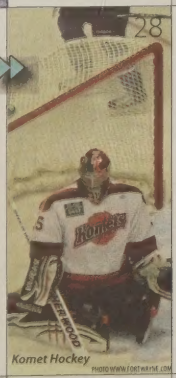
My point in all of this is actually just a simple question. Where does this end? It is safe for me to state that being a senior at Homestead no longer comes along with the rewarding privileges past graduating classes have been so fortunate to have. But all it means to me is that I survived three years of watching the first half of the student handbook get thicker and thicker.

-Jon Finley (12)

[Editor's Note: This letter does not represent the opinion of The Spartana staff, but that of the individual writer who is not a member of the staff.]

SNOWED INTO THE FORT

Events, activities around Fort Wayne during winter break provide array of entertainment opportunities for friends, families before returning to school for second semester Jan. 4

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Without homework or finals to worry about, Winter Break is a time to relax with family and friends before returning to school after the beginning of the New Year. The Spartana has compiled a variety of different activities around Ft. Wayne to ensure that boredom does not onset before Jan. 4 and that Elf is only watched once.	16 **Holiday Pops with the Phil** The Fort Wayne Philharmonic will perform their annual ritual Holiday Pops combining classical favorites with newer musical traditions. The performance this year is conducted by Bradley Thachuk at the Embassy Theater. There are showings at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17 and on Saturday, Dec. 18. Ticket prices are anywhere from $25 to $63.	17 Fort Wayne Philharmonic 18
19 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 20		21 **Movie Marathon** A great way to get into the holiday spirit is to put in a good Christmas movie. Many stations broadcast holiday favorites constantly throughout the month of December. Check the local paper for listings, grab a cold glass of egg nog, maybe a gingerbread cookie or two and watch the holiday classics such as It's a Wonderful Life, The Grinch and the Santa Clause series.	 Tanner Cranford (12) 22	23	24 **Sledding** When all else fails, take advantage of the winter weather and go sledding with friends. Most Southwest neighborhoods have hills to be meet any adventure seeking sledder's needs. There are also hills around Ft. Wayne such as the one at Franke Park. But if the weather doesn't cooperate, take a drive up to Pokagon State Park in Angola to go tobogganing with friends or family.	25 **Mad Ants** The Mad Ants are an official Minor League team of the NBA . To join the invasion attend a home game. The ants have basketball games on Dec. 19, 25, 26 and 28 and Jan. 1 and 2. There are afternoon and evening games located at the War Memorial Coliseum. Ticket prices range from $7 to $82.50 and can be bought online at Ticketmaster.com or at the box office on game day.
26 **Christmas at the Conservatory** The Botanical Conservatory offers an assortment of gorgeous poinsettias surrounded by a luscious scene of gingerbread men and giant peppermint candy canes. Their conservatory offers a unique version of the classic childhood game Candy Land to play as well. Admission is $5 for adults and $3 for children 3-17 years of age.	27 **Komet Hockey** The Komets hockey team is an exciting night out with friends or family especially for newcomers. The Komets play Dec. 18, 22, 27 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. They also play at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 31. All home hockey games are played at the War Memorial Coliseum. Student ticket prices start at $8 and reach $16 for closer seats. Order tickets ahead of time or purchase them at the door.	 28 Komet Hockey	29 **Ice Skating** Head Waters Ice Rink has extended its hours to accommodate increased business over the holidays. The rink is open Monday through Thursday from noon until 10 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Admission is $5 for skaters 14 and over and skate rental is $2. The rink sells hot chocolate and other warm beverages to keep skaters warm on the ice.	30 Rachel Shinn (12)	31 **Crazy Pinz** Crazy Pinz off of Lima Road is hosting a Teen Party on New Years Eve for high school students 15 to 19 years old. Admission is $10 with a valid student I.D. The party starts at 9 p.m. and lasts until midnight. Bowling, shoe rentals, mini golf and bumper cars are all included in the admission. See the coupon inside of this issue to receive two dollars off of admission.	Mad Ants 01
02 Botanical Conservatory 03		04 Second Semester Begins				

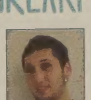
WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT WINTER BREAK?

Rob Lee (12)

"TAKIN' IT EASY AND HANGING WITH FRIENDS"

Kylie Burton (10)

"I'M GOING TO SLED, EAT A BUNCH, BUILD A SNOWMAN NAMED THE SITUATION AND OPEN LOADS OF PRESENTS"



Jake Weber (11)

"PROBABLY JUST HANGING WITH MY DOG CASEY BECAUSE SHE'S DEAF AND BLIND AND PROBABLY GOING TO DIE SOON"

Allie Rushmeyer (12)

"I'LL PROBABLY SPEND BREAK LOOKING FOR A JOB"

Lauren Hughes (11)

"I'M GOING TO BE AT MY GRANDMA'S HOUSE"

Justin Griffiths (10)

"JUST HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS"

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
Sophomore students now have to go to the main building if they wish to speak their designated counselor. 2A

LIFE
The class of 2011 battles the common pseudo-disease "Senioritis" as they head into their final semester of high school. 4A

FEATURE
Seniors recount the college applications process as well as the other necessary steps needed for admittance in higher education. 8A

OPINION
A revised and censored version of the classic "Huckleberry Finn" has many questioning where schools should draw the line when choosing literature. 3A

SPORTS
The boys' basketball team finishes strong two-week span of play after dealing with issues between players and coaching on and off the court. 6A

ONLINE
The Spartana's official website is currently under construction as its layout is rearranged and is expected to launch again at the end of March.

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Questions arise from Bennett's education plan

By Andrew Yde
Copy Editor

State Superintendent Tony Bennett has proposed an "education overhaul" plan, which entails a new system of paying Indiana's teachers based on performance. The plan also alters the state collective bargaining laws associated with every teacher's union across the state.

Although Bennett promotes the plan as a simple and clear solution to some of the problems concerning the system, the mere plotting of an education overhaul has brewed sharp conflict among teachers and union leaders who have noticed a multitude of loopholes and potential problems that could arise from such a proposition.

Dr. Tony Bennett

"Things aren't as simple as they seem with this [plan]," Principal Rick Smith said. "It's full of problematic issues."

Bennett's plan recommends a new method of paying teachers: pay based on teacher performance. This plan is exceedingly controversial among teachers, as teachers with better, more capable students would be paid more than teachers who are responsible for the less-than-average students.

"Merit pay has never really been an optimal route," Smith said. "Paying based on teacher performance could lead to students moving teachers, or even schools."

The institution of an education system that would pay teachers solely based on performance is threatening not only to teachers but also to students who are not capable of achieving straight A's in all of their classes. In the proposed system, such

SEE 'EDUCATION PLAN' 2A

PHOTO BY BEN MERCHANT

Teachers doubt fairness of new technology program

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor

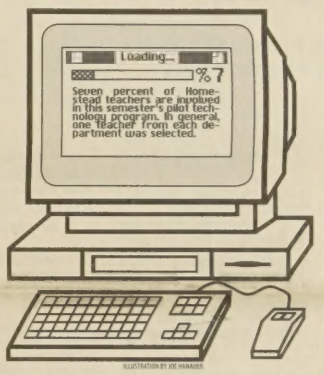
For a select number of students, this semester signified the start of the new technology pilot program, allowing them to bring in their laptops, smart phones, iPads, and other devices to aid their learning. They also were allowed a much looser filter on the web content they were allowed to view. Late last semester, a select few teachers from each department were selected to participate in the program, and for students involved, it has impacted the way they learn significantly.

However, some suspicion had been aroused as to the fairness of the technology program being applied only to certain classrooms. It may have appeared unfair that students of a certain class could use the new technology, while students of an equal course, but with a different teacher, were not allowed to do so. Principal Rick Smith, however, discredited any inkling of unfairness that any may have felt.

"[Having certain classrooms with the new technology] is not unfair, because everyone is still covering the same curriculum," Smith said. "The technology is not being used as an advantage, we are simply seeing if it will improve students' capacity to learn in school... it's just another medium to accomplish the job. We had to keep the test group small so that we could accommodate any unforeseen issues."

Although no apocalyptic melt

SEE 'TECHNOLOGY UPDATE' 2A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Seven percent of Homestead teachers are involved in this semester's pilot technology program. In general, one teacher from each department was selected.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOE HANAUER

Student government completes 'most successful charity to date'

By Ryan Boylan
Writer

During the month of December, Student Government put on several events to raise money for the Blackfeet Children's Christmas Fund, a project meant to ensure that each of the 3,207 children living on the poverty-stricken Blackfeet reservation received a gift on Christmas morning. In only a week's time, Student Government put on a fundraiser that many consider to be the group's most successful.

"It was great," Susan Summers, Student Government instructor, said. "To my understanding it's been the most successful fundraiser student government has ever done. The fact that we raised $2,800 in only seven days was truly amazing."

Along with other charitable organizations and individuals, Homestead, which was one of four groups raising money for the charity, helped the tribe raise enough to give a gift to each child on the reservation. However, the sponsors were not the only ones that played a major role in getting gifts to the children.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LAKE

Volunteers worked day and night to wrap all of the gifts for the Blackfeet tribe.

"A group of [tribe members] drove all night on Christmas Eve to get presents for the kids on the reservation," Assistant Principal Steve Lake said. "It was really just a huge thing for the whole community."

Although the tribe did not have the opportunity to thank each donor personally, they did express their gratitude to each individual who donated through their own cultural traditions.

"The Blackfeet tribe was very appreciative of everything that everyone did for them," Lake said. "They even had a ritual on Christmas morning in which one of the tribal leaders blessed all of the gifts and the donors that helped provide them."

Despite the various events that Student Government, Campus Life, and Young Life organized to raise money as a group, individual patronage was also responsible for a large portion of the success of the project.

"It's great to see Homestead's students and the Student Government program get together and raise money for all of these kids that they don't even know," said Lake. "That's what I think this whole project was about; not me, not Homestead, but these kids waking up on Christmas

SEE 'FUNDRAISER' 2A

Graduation rate on decline

Various new programs benefit students at risk of not graduating

By Tori Barnard
Writer

For the second year in a row, Homestead's graduation rate has declined, while Indiana's public high school graduation rate has continued to increase, according to the Indiana Department of Education.

"In part, this decline in graduation rates can be attributed to growing pains that Homestead is experiencing as the student population is increasing and the staff is decreasing," Diane Rice, Homestead guidance counselor, said.

Students, however, have expressed alternate possibilities for the drop in graduation numbers.

"I think the graduation rate has been decreasing because of the recession, which has caused students to realize they should start working and that college won't make a difference for them," Andrew Klopfenstein (12) said.

In 2010, Homestead's graduation rate declined for the second year in a row by 0.6 percentage points to 92.5 percent, after a 2.5 percentage point decrease in 2009. Indiana's public high school graduation rate rose 2.6 percentage points to 84.1 percent in 2010.

"Though there has been a decline in the four year graduate rates, it is not that great in a school this size, and the rate has consistently remained above the state average," Michael Green, graduation coach, said.

Homestead surpassed Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett's goal of a 90 percent or higher graduation rate. However, of forty schools in northeast Indiana, Homestead was one of only four that have witnessed a decline in graduation rate two years in a row.

Teachers and counselors are available for students who need any

SEE 'GRADUATION RATE' 2A

FAILURE TO LAUNCH

Despite programs created to increase the graduation rate, the percentage of students in Southwest Allen County schools receiving diplomas has decreased over the past three years.

Year	Graduation Rate
2009-2010	92.5 %
2008-2009	93.1 %
2007-2008	94.7 %

ACCORDING TO NEWS SENTINEL

BRIEFS

BOOK DONATION
The Junior Club Latin League is looking for donations of new or gently-used books for Lutheran Childeren's Hospital. Please deposit books in the front office or Latin Rooms 606 and 607.

DANCE MARATHON
Those looking to partake in this year's Dance Marathon will be able to pick up a packet in the cafeteria during lunch Jan. 18 thru 20. The event will take place from Feb. 25 to 26.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL
Basketball schedules for Intramural Basketball are available. The first week of games begin this week and will continue through the middle of February. See Discipline Office Room 300 or the Academy Office to pick up your copy.

SAT PREP CLASS
Homestead is offering six sessions of verbal and math SAT prep classes. Verbal classes take place on Wednesdays while math classes take place on Thursday evenings. The cost to take one class is $90 and $170 for both. Sessions begin this week. See Student Services for registration form.

Dual credit comp class offers college credits in high school

Writing course taught by Connie Christophersen opens new opportunities to eager students

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

This is the first year that the dual credit course has been offered at Homestead.

By Joe Janizek
News Editor

An addition has been made to Homestead's already extensive course list. Advanced Composition/W131 is a dual credit, one semester class that gives students both high school and college credit.

Connie Christophersen teaches Advanced Composition this semester, which is the first semester the class has been offered.

"Students who attend any Indiana University campus will not only receive college credit [for taking the course], but will also have the class grade become part of their college GPA," Christophersen said.

Christophersen noted the advantages that W131 offered over AP Composition.

"The advantage for students who attend any Indiana University branch is the receipt of credit is not based upon one exam," Christophersen said. "Students who receive a high grade also have the advantage of the grade becoming a part of their college record. A student who earns a low grade, however, would experience a disadvantage."

While the class offers advantages in some fields, it poses disadvantages in others. The class has been described as a mix of other courses offered at Homestead.

"A lot of people look at it as being halfway between regular and AP Composition," Counselor Amy Hamilton said.

Students believe the Advanced Composition course may not provide as much college preparation as AP Composition would.

"I didn't know about the dual credit class until later in the year but I still prefer AP Composition," Sachin Jain (12), who elected to take AP Composition over W131, said. "AP Composition is more challenging and I feel that the extra preparation for a college level class that you get from AP Composition is more valuable than getting an extra credit."

In addition to being a more challenging course, AP Composition may be more likely to gain students college credit, depending on their choice of college.

"Beginning this year, students who receive a 3 or higher on the AP exam will receive college credit for freshman writing at all public state universities," Christophersen said. "During the past 5 years, only a few students have not achieved this score. Routinely, 90% receive a 4 or 5. A writing course is required for freshmen at almost eVery university. Qualifying via an AP Exam saves both money and time for students."

While dual credit from IPFW may automatically count at Indiana Uni-

SEE 'DUAL CREDIT COURSE' 2A

▸▸ EDUCATION PLAN CONTINUED FROM 1A

students could get left behind, as it would become ideal for teachers to focus more on the students who are capable of reflecting their teaching abilities in a more positive light.

"Merit pay is dangerous," Jon Baker, social studies teacher and head of the Southwest Allen County Teachers' Association, said. "Being paid on test or class results is scary."

Students aware of the implications of such an enormously momentous amendment to the Indiana education system are also voicing their opinions.

"I think teachers are paid too little in the first place, but teachers that have less to teach–namely teachers that don't teach core classes–should not be punished," Stephen Logomasini (12) said.

Although some issues that could result from the institution of the education overhaul are predictable, the language of the plan is unclear and has stirred frustration among administrations across the state.

The Superintendent's goal to achieve an organization based on merit pay is especially blurry in its definition

Not even the teachers who will be affected by the changes know exactly what changes will be instituted.

The collective bargaining law for teachers across the state concerning the universal bargaining for benefits, salaries, working conditions and contract language is also expected to experience unknown changes, of which teachers and others affected are ill-informed.

"I know what we've all heard on the news and read in the newspapers, but I don't know the specifics," Smith said. "There's a lot more to this than what we [have all been told]."

At the moment, teachers and administrators are being kept in the dark as to what exactly the education overhaul will change.

But, they know enough to feel apprehensive about its potential implementation.

To teachers and administrators working under Superintendent Bennett, the seemingly prominent instability of his plot for an education overhaul has imbued a population with fear and aggravation amongst many.

"Why would administrations across the state not work with classroom teachers when it comes to decisions that impact classrooms?" Baker said. "This seems anti-education."

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Superintendent Tony Bennett looks to focus on three main points in his upcoming education reform.

- Identify and reward great teachers and principals: Give local leaders flexibility to promote excellence.
- Real accountability and flexibility: Empower school leaders. Bring success to failing schools.
- High-quality options for families: Offer equal educational opportunities to all children.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: The school ran out of money to send report cards this year.
Status: True – to a point.

Homestead will not mail report cards to students' homes this year, nor will report cards be available for pick-up in advisory as they were last year.

"Report cards will not be mailed home this year due to the availability of accessibility of accessing grades on Powerschool, costs of printing and postage," Gloria Junk, Homestead Registrar, said.

Because grades are readily available on Powerschool, printing and mailing costs for 2,200 report cards are an easy cut to make when budget choices become necessary.

"Most of our discussion was about mailing costs, but we did discuss that because grades are so readily available and can be printed at home or from other sources, the only difference is for a transcript," Jennifer Bay, Assistant Principal, said.

According to Bay, if cost cuts need to be made, the administration first pinpoints the items that have the least effect on students' school days and class productivity. Choosing not to print and mail report cards saves money that can be turned toward greater concerns such as keeping class sizes manageable.

"Every bit counts," Bay said. "What you see [in our decision] is that we're doing everything we can to save the things that are worth saving."

Questions arise as to why budget choices remain necessary after previous cuts and the passage of the 2009 referendum. However, Bay clarifies that the referendum was used for concerns such as class sizes and did not cover items like printing and mailing costs.

"Compared to other districts, we are still fortunate," Bay said.

Parents and students can access Powerschool at home, at the local libraries, at Apple Glen Walmart or in the Homestead reception office. Students may request transcripts or printed copies of grades from Junk or from Cindy Fitt, Student Services secretary. - *Kirsten Overdahl*

▸▸ FUNDRAISER CONTINUED FROM 1A

with presents under the tree."

Partially because of all of the financial assistance that the tribe received throughout the month of December, the leaders of the tribe have a new inspiration to eliminate the poverty, unemployment, and other undesirable economic and social conditions that have existed since the economic depression struck the tribe in 2008.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LANZ

All the gifts were sent to North Dakota back in early December.

"So today, the first day of 2010, marks the beginning of a new era for the Blackfeet," Willie A. Sharp, Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribe, said in his 2010 annual message to the tribe. "From today on, we once again make our own destiny and start moving our Tribe forward in big, bold ways."

Because of the new found prosperity of the tribe and the strong promises that Chairman Sharp has for the Blackfeet tribe, the school is unsure as to whether or not the tribe will even need financial assistance for the holidays next year.

"I know we will definitely continue helping out charities, however I am not sure as to whether or not we will continue helping this nation," said Audrey Hoff (12). "I'm not positive, but we try to reach out to multiple different communities in need."

▸▸ 2,800

the estimated number of dollars that Student Government raised for the Blackfeet Children's Christmas Fund in one week.

▸▸ DUAL CREDIT COURSE CONTINUED FROM 1A

versity and Purdue, it may not be accepted by other schools.

"I cannot emphasize enough that dual credit is not accepted nationally to the same degree as credit achieved via advanced placement," Christophersen said.

Hamilton, however, listed more advantages offered by W131.

"You have one of the best teachers in the building teaching that class, and it's right in students' backyard. They don't have to drive out to IPFW to take a college class," Hamilton said.

The course has a balance of advantages and disadvantages, which are weighed differently for each student.

"I think [Advanced Composition] a good opportunity for the right student- one who is capable of a college-level course and who has also narrowed college selection to a university that will recognize these credits," Christophersen said.

> "We want to look at more opportunities, but we want to make sure that we put together the right combination of courses to best help students."
>
> **AMY HAMILTON**
> *Guidance Counselor*

In order for the school to be able to offer the class, Christophersen had to receive additional qualification, and students had to enroll at IPFW.

"In order to teach this class, I had to apply and be accepted as a member of the Associate Faculty of the English and Linguistics Dept. at IPFW," Christophersen said. "All students in the class are enrolled in Homestead and IPFW. When I submit grades at the end of the semester, I complete grades for Homestead in Power School as well as grades for W131 through IPFW."

The addition of more dual credit classes such as W131 is questionable at this point.

"I don't foresee additional dual credit courses in the English department," Christophersen said.

The administration was unsure about the expansion of dual credit at Homestead, and said that any new classes would be scrutinized closely.

"We want to look at more opportunities, but we want to make sure that we put together the right combination of courses to best help students," Hamilton said.

▸▸ GRADUATION RATE CONTINUED FROM 1A

sort of assistance, according to students.

"My teachers and counselors have always encouraged me and answered any questions I've had to keep on track to graduate," Klopfenstein said.

Programs have been implemented to assist students that are struggling to meet graduation requirements.

In February 2009, Green was hired as Homestead's first graduation coach, with funding from the Smaller Learning Community Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

However, students may still be unaware of Green's work or the option of seeking his assistance along with help from teachers and counselors.

"I did not know Homestead had a graduation coach that works with struggling students," Klopfenstein said.

> "With the proactive programs being implemented to help students, the graduation rate will increase this year."
>
> **MICHAEL GREEN**
> *Graduation Coach*

Geen works with students that are falling behind in credits or need other assistance.

"I provide coaching in organizational and test-taking skills to any 9-12 student having difficulty meeting graduation requirements," Green said.

Green also helps lead the Credit Recovery Program, meant to help students who have fallen behind on their credits catch up by taking extra exams and online courses.

"The Credit Recovery Program is not just a way out for students," Rice said. "This is usually only an option if they repeatedly fail classes."

Additionally, Green works with fifth-year students. "We try to get students who fail to graduate to come back for a fifth year, and that graduation rate is much higher," Green said.

Homestead's 2010 fifth-year graduation rate was 94.6 percent, 2.1 percentage points higher than its four-year graduation rate.

"With the proactive programs being implemented to help students, the graduation rate will increase this year," Green said. "The ultimate goal is to improve Homestead's graduation rate to 100 percent."

Bishop Dwenger High School was the only high school in northeast Indiana to have a 100 percent graduation rate in 2010.

"In order to improve the graduation rate, teachers and counselors need to recognize the skill levels of students, meet them in the middle to help bring them forward and really get to know them to truly address their deficiencies," Rice said. "Though the history and English departments have been doing a spectacular job working with students, all of the departments need to take a closer look at individual students and work with them on a more individual basis."

Sophomore counselors move from freshman academy to main building

By Laura Zeng
Writer

The new semester has brought changes for all students, especially the sophomore class. Starting second semester, sophomores will meet with new guidance counselors from the main building, as opposed to the guidance counselors from the freshman academy that they met with during the first semester.

At the beginning of this year, the sophomore class still had the same counselors they had during their freshman year.

The plan to keep the current sophomores with their freshman counselors was implemented during the summer as a result of losing a guidance counselor in the freshman academy.

Originally, there were two guidance counselors in the freshman academy and five guidance counselors in the main building.

However, the school lost a counselor in the freshman academy and transferred a guidance counselor from the main building to the freshman academy.

With only four guidance counselors in charge of grades 10 through 12, however, it was decided that the best course of action would be to leave the sophomores with their current counselors during first semester and then give them new counselors during second semester.

The reason for this decision was that counselors working in the main building had to focus on college applications during first semester.

"There should be no big impact [on the students]," Diane Rice, guidance counselor said. "This wasn't a drastic change."

Current sophomores reacted positively towards the change.

"It makes it so that I don't have to go to the academy to talk to my counselor," Maddie Weber (10) said. "I think it's a good change. It makes it easier for [the sophomores]."

Although no final decision has been made, next year's sophomores will likely also keep their freshman counselors for first semester and then switch to their main building counselors at the start of second semester.

▸▸ TECHNOLOGY UPDATE CONTINUED FROM 1A

downs ensued, minor problems were still encountered. The school's technicians are working frantically to fix the problem of blocked sites, some of which still remain blocked to this day.

"Teachers are still unable to access many sites, such as blogging sites," Smith said. "The CMT people had trouble figuring out how to unblock sites for only a few classrooms, but they are working on it, and making progress."

Smith used this example to justify the relatively small number of teachers included in the pilot program.

"This is why we needed the test group, because had we just jumped in and had the whole school involved, the problem would've had a much bigger impact," Smith said. "The test group allowed for lead time to find solutions for these unforeseen problems, so if we do switch to school-wide involvement, we will know what to do."

Had the program been applied to the whole school, this problem might have had disastrous results, possibly resulting in the postponement of the program altogether. Thankfully, the test group was small enough that the problems were able to be fixed in a fairly small amount of time, for the most part.

Teachers that were not selected for the program might have had reason to become slightly disgruntled, however most understood the need for a test group, rather than a drastic school-wide jump.

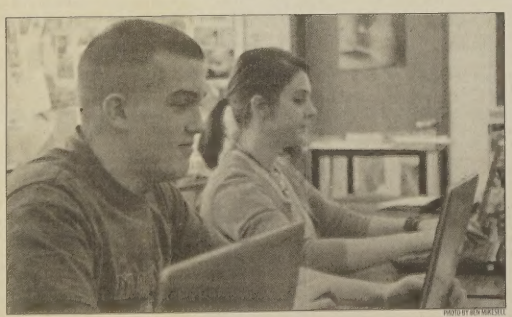

PHOTO BY NICK MORRISETT

Hunter Brutton (11) and Riley McComb (11) work diligently at their laptops during class.

"All classes could benefit from more freedom within the limits of the technology program that we are running, especially AP courses, but there was definitely a necessity for a test group," Toiyanna Arias, Spanish teacher, said.

Students, too, could have been off-put by the selective nature of the pilot program, but most were not.

"I'm in [Rod] Kuhn's comp class, and we all have our own computers," Aaron Feneley (12) said. "Even though they're really slow, I don't think that being able to bring in our own computers or devices would make much of a difference."

The test group was not randomly selected, either, it was spread evenly through the departments, and was given mainly to those who would greatly be able to utilize it.

"We looked for teachers in each department that already used some technology, and were comfortable teaching beyond the textbook," Smith said. "Incorporating the technology will require some work on the teacher's part, so we made sure we selected those that were comfortable with technology, and would be able to implement it sufficiently."

So, now that the wrinkles are mostly ironed out, and the program is running smoothly for the most part, hopefully the program will show great improvement over old-school, out-of-the-textbook learning. Barring any drastic attacks on the school's network, or any school-wide meltdowns, the technology pilot program will hopefully be considered a success, and could potentially be implemented for the entire school sometime next year.

the SPARTANA

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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

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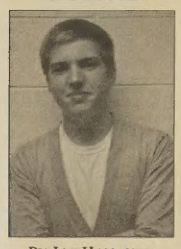
Despite conference loss, swim team keeps supportive, active energy

In a world of sports where making the ESPN highlight reel and getting a full-ride scholarship is every athlete's dream, competing as one has been thrown to the wayside by individuals placing priority for themselves rather than for the team. Albeit your average team at Homestead has at least three parents per team with a mouth in the coach's ear, there's one group that truly holds the most stripped down, honest form of what a team really is. They're not the team that plays on the hardwood, or under the Friday night lights. You're guaranteed a front row at their competitions and never have to worry about the student section getting too rowdy, well, if one even shows up. They had a successful conference tournament and already have their eyes on another first place finish at sectionals.

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor

With practices that start before the sun rises, it only seems deserving that their letter jackets are draped in patches. Yes, I'm talking about the Homestead swim team, they've been sitting under our noses and never have quite received the appreciation they deserve.

What is it about them that makes them different from every other athlete that walks the halls of Homestead? The early morning practices? The three-a-day workouts over winter break? The repeated conference titles? Something sets them apart from the rest of the gold card sellers at this school, and I don't know if I'll ever be able to quite put my finger on it. Maybe there isn't one given trait that defines who they are. But whatever it is, there's clearly something that separates them from the rest of the pack.

Upon entering the NHC Conference in 1997, both the boys' and girls' teams have won the conference championship every year excluding this current season. Unfortunately, the boys' team ended their conference reign after taking second to Carroll while the girls' team continued their current streak of 13 straight titles.

While I won't consider myself a diehard fan of the swim team, I did make up 25% of the student section last Saturday. Needless to say, the intensity in the Natatorium was shy of indescribable. Sure, a lot more happens during a football game or basketball game, but the minute spent watching the 100 meter butterfly tops the apex of any sporting event I've seen in a while.

From the get go, both teams came out hot, scoring early points in the 200 meter composed of Jacob Cook (11), Josh Auger (12), Blake Johnson (12) and Logan Johnson (12). Along with this event and three others, the boys' team would go on to set an unthinkable four conference records in the meet.

The four records were only minor facets of the things that caught my eye that day. What really astounded me, were the things that aren't mentioned in the scoresheet. Coach Chad Englehart willing his team with a waving clipboard, as well as near perfect attendance by the junior varsity teams showed the support generously provided for the varsity swimmers that day. Upon a closer look of the swimmers that day, I noticed something scrawled in marker on the hands of every team member.

"Team."

I didn't need to talk to any of the team members to find out why they did this, and it hardly surprised me in the slightest. In a typical week, the swim team will undergo more practices than most teams do in three weeks. A single practice for the swim team will push every athlete to his or her breaking point. Englehart creates sets to test the physical and mental states of his athletes to the extreme, and, while most athletes would crumble, the swimmers, collectively, build one another back up. They support one another, and by the end of a rough practice, they are one; they are a team.

At the meet, even the most experienced members of the team jump on the pool deck to encourage younger swimmers in the pool. Age means nothing to them. Gender means nothing. Everyone means something to the unit, which, at times, seems more like a family than a team. Every member of the team, regardless of skill level, lined one side of the pool.

Although they won seven out the eleven events that day, the boys' team still fell short to Carroll. And while Carroll was busy celebrating under Homestead's conference and sectionals banners, Homestead gathered in a huddle and decided to shake hands with the team that had ended their 12-year win streak.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Adam Hackett (12) and Brad Kopecky (12) fight for the ball during Friday night's game against Columbia City, ending in a conference win for the Spartans.

Spartans stay strong in conference despite major player loss

BY CONNOR O'HARA
Writer

These past few weeks for the boys' basketball team have been a few of the most intensely riveting weeks on and off the court for the team. Over winter break the completely unexpected happened; star player Zach Terrell (11) was rumored, amongst oceans of texts and tweets, to have quit the Homestead basketball team. According to Terrell, at the beginning of the season he had come to Coach Johnson and told him that he was participating in a college football combine in San Antonio, Texas that would make him miss a few games over winter break. "I had talked to Coach Johnson at the beginning of the season [about the combine] and he had no issue with me missing those games," Terrell said. It wasn't until Terrell suffered from an ankle injury earlier in the season that forced him to sit out for a number of games that Coach Johnson told Terrell he was less than okay with him missing anymore. The ultimatum initialized with Terrell deciding to focus his efforts on football over basketball. "The choice to leave the team was definitely not an easy decision. I didn't have a chance to say goodbye to the guys that I had played with, and that was very hard to do," Terrell said. The combine where Terrell was playing is considered to be on of the largest, most scouted football gathering in the entire country. Apart from the loss of one of their star players, the Spartans had an incredibly successful winter break as they boosted their record to a healthy 8-4 over the course of the holiday season. The Spartans won four out of their five matchups over break, defeating rivals such as Carroll and Canterbury.

"Winter break was great. We all played great games, and had a great time doing it," Evan Rhoades (12) said.

During the time that school was not in session, the Spartans defeated Carroll 45-44. The Spartans barely squeaked by the Chargers when the final buzzer sounded after the two teams struggled back and forth the entire night. Following the Carroll win, Homestead then faced Heritage and Canterbury in a tournament over winter break. The Spartans defeated Heritage with a score of 58 to Heritage's 52. Homestead also defeated local rival Canterbury by an impressive margin of 14 points--72-58. Despite the winning streak Homestead carried throughout the course of winter break, perhaps the most exciting moment of the Homestead basketball season took place last Friday in an away game against Concordia.

> "The choice to leave the team was definitely not an easy decision. I didn't have a chance to say goodbye to the guys that I had played with, and that was very hard to do."
>
> **ZACH TERRELL (11)**
> *Former Varsity Player*

From the very beginning, the game was evenly-matched and strikingly heated. Concordia managed to sneak away with the win after all but two of Homestead's varsity players fouled out. "The Concordia game was a huge moment of the season; it really showed how hard we could work as a team. I only wish that the results were different," Drew Sery (11) said. Sery had a great game against Concordia, scoring 26 points. Numerous overtimes defined the battle. Crazily, it wasn't the second, third or fourth overtime buzzer that crowned the victor; in an almost impossibly rare game, the fifth overtime buzzer crowned Concordia. Foul trouble eventually proved fatal for the Spartans, as Joe Olivieri (12) and Brad Kopecky (12) were forced to stand the court alone, significantly outnumbered by the nearly full lineup Concordia had retained through four overtimes. Even with only two players remaining, the 107-103 loss was indisputably close.

The Spartans bounced back from the strenuous overtime war, defeating East Noble by a score of 63-50. They then proceeded to win their next game against Columbia City by a final score of 62-48. Sery led the offensive attack for the Spartans, putting up 15 points against the Columbia City Eagles in their first conference game of the season. Winning last week's game against Columbia City will prove to be pivotal later in the season when the winner of the NHC Conference is decided. As the season moves forward into conference play, the Spartans feel confident after coming off a strong two-week span of games that have placed them amongst the top of the NHC Conference. Upcoming games against North Side and Bellmont will prove to be difficult tests for the team as they look to improve on their already .750 winning percentage. The Spartans have put up amazing fights, and played with a fire that has left little doubting their heart and work ethic as a unit. Look to the Spartan's offensive dominance and lockdown defense to carry the them to a desirable conference championship.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Above: Drew Sery (12) prepares to run out onto the court to begin the game. Right: Zach Terrell (11) decided to leave the team over Winter Break, to focus more of his efforts on football.

REMAINING SCHEDULE

Jan. 18 - @North Side
Jan. 22 - @ Bellmont
Jan. 28 - vs. DeKalb
Feb. 1 - @ Canterbury
Feb. 5 - @ New Haven
Feb. 10 - @ Norwell
Feb. 18 - vs. Snider
Feb. 22 - vs. Northrop

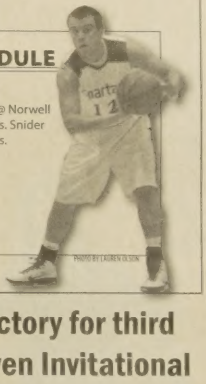


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSEN

Dive team overcomes turmoil

Freshman swimmer learns dives, finishes roster Sophomore diver's injury heals, wins conference

Despite many setbacks, the Spartan divers have had a successful season. While preseason predictions were dismal, the team has been able to execute in many situations. On the girls' team, the Spartans struggled to find ways to win while Bailey Wills (10) was injured for three weeks. Unfortunately for the boys' team, the team has found winning difficult with having only one member, Tyler Warren (11) filling out the entire roster for the Spartans.

With such a small team heading into conference dive meet, the boys' team was willing to try anything to help the team score points in the event. A freshman swimmer, Mitch Gray (9), stepped up to the challenge. A swimmer who had never competitively dived, learned 11 dives in nine short days; luckily, Jill Eckert, the head dive coach, was more than willing to teach Gray.

"It was fun to watch Mitch learn the dives, we are all a big family so we were very supportive and helped push him to learn his dives," junior varsity diver Kara Bautz (11) said. Gray spent hours each day not only practicing diving but getting in full swim practices as well.

"I was a little nervous on a few dives because I only had one day to learn them but Coach Jill gave me plenty of pointers and on the day of conference I was ready to go." Gray said

Gray completed all 11 dives and finished 12th in the conference an impressive feat for 9 days of training. Warren, the veteran junior diver led the Spartan divers finishing 3rd in the conference.

The varsity lineup for the girls' dive team has varied throughout the season, but the main core of the team includes: Micah Spurgeon(12), Madie Zirzow (11) and Bailey Wills (10). As the Spartans headed into Christmas training, Wills discovered that she had a back injury that would sideline her from competition.

> "It felt good to have Wills back to diving; it makes us a much more competitive team."
>
> **MADIE ZIRZOW (11)**
> *Varsity Diver*

The Spartans competed without Wills at Carmel as she rested and waited for her back to heal. After weeks of rest, Wills returned to compete at conference alongside her team mates who finished 1-2-4 in conference propelling the entire girls' swim and dive team to a first place in the conference meet.

"It felt good to have Wills back to diving; it makes us a much more competitive team." Zirzow said. Zirzow placed first overall in the girls' diving conference championship.

The Spartan divers get a few weeks off before competing at North Central, their last regular season meet before sectionals. The team has another month before competing South Side High School for the Sectional Championship on February 5th. - *Logan Johnson*

Wrestling team captures victory for third straight season at New Haven Invitational

Creating an atmosphere of winning, the Spartans roll out the blue and gold mats and put up the dome lighting to create an arena only fitting for true champions. Seniors Brad Mills (12) and Keelan Rushing (12), two of the highest-ranked wrestlers in the state, and most threatening wrestlers in their weight class in the conference, have contributed to many of the teams victories this season.

Over winter break the Spartans competed in the Mooresville classic finishing 4th overall. Rushing led the team by taking first in his weight class the first individual winner the team has ever had at this meet.

Keelan Rushing said, "Being the first winner Homestead has had at the meet was really cool. It gave me confidence and excitement for the rest of the season".

Andrew Bowman (12) and Justin Norris (12) took home runner-up titles in both of their respective weight classes as well. Last Saturday, the Spartans headed to New Haven to compete in what would be one of their toughest competitions of the season.

Heading into the match The Spartans were nervous knowing that New Haven would put up a hard fight. Surprisingly, the boys stunned everyone, including themselves, and ended up winning the invitational by over 30 points. Homestead would have four wrestlers who won their respective weight class, including; Mills, Rushing, Bowman, and Kody George (11).

The team had their senior night last week against Bellmont. The meet was competitive for the team and recognized the seniors who have carried the team this season. "It was bittersweet, it's awesome to get a big win on senior night, but also sad that is the last time I will wrestle at home under the spotlight." Norris said.

Although the team lost 39-21 that night, the seniors put up a hard fight at their last home meet of the season.

This Saturday, the boys go to battle in the Concordia Invitational and wrap up their regular season competition. "I'm excited for the post season, I take on guys like Travis Thatcher (2011) [currently ranked third in state]. I love the pressure, it helps takes me to the next level," Mills explained. Following conference they head to sectionals as defending team champions, where many wrestlers, as well as the team, should continue onto the regional finals in Indianapolis. - *Logan Johnson*

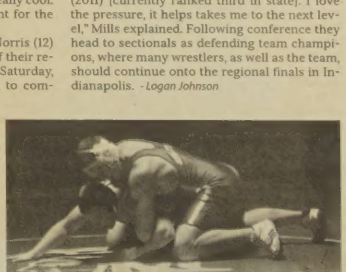


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSEN

Brad Mills (12) maneuvers over an opponent at the DeKalb meet.

where do I go from here?

Six seniors share personal stories on searching for the perfect college

the JOCK

Blake Johnson

Undecided

"Try and get as much money as possible, but go somewhere that you fit in."

Spartana: Where are you going to college next fall?
Johnson: Either Purdue, Kentucky, or Miami of Ohio
Spartana: What do you plan on majoring in?
Johnson: Psychology
Spartana: What activities, clubs and extracurriculars did you participate in during high school?
Johnson: Just swimming, it took up all of my time.
Spartana: What are your study habits, if any?
Johnson: Do homework when I have to and study a little before important tests.
Spartana: Which year of high school was most important to you?
Johnson: Senior Year because I'm having the most fun and it's right before I take a big step in my life.
Spartana: How many schools did you apply to?
Johnson: Just one, the others offered me scholarships.
Spartana: How did you select which schools to apply to, what did you look for in a college?
Johnson: I looked for which schools have the degree that I want, and a swim team that I would fit in with.
Spartana: How did you begin the college application process?
Johnson: It started with talking to coaches, and then I took my visits.

the AVERAGE

Laura Trexler *Undecided*

Spartana: Where are you going to college next fall?
Trexler: Kent State or Ball State.
Spartana: What do you plan on majoring in?
Trexler: Public Relations and Fashion Merchandising.
Spartana: Where do you see yourself after college?
Trexler: I see myself getting a job in a large city working as a public relations person in a major fashion house.
Spartana: What activities, clubs and extracurriculars did you participate in during high school?
Trexler: Show Choir for two years, National Honors Society for two years, and Spanish Club for one year.
Spartana: What are your study habits, if any?
Trexler: I usually just do the homework that is due the next day and study if I have a big test as well.
Spartana: Is there anything you regret about high school, anything you wish you had participated in or done differently?
Trexler: I wish that I would have participated in an activity my senior year and tried harder my freshman and sophomore years.
Spartana: How many schools did you apply to?
Trexler: Two schools.
Spartana: How did you select which schools to apply to; what did you look for in a college?
Trexler: I looked for a college that had both of my majors and a school that was within my price range.
Spartana: How did you begin the college application process?
Trexler: I visited the schools and researched them online.
Spartana: How did you choose who wrote your letters of recommendation?
Trexler: I choose two teachers who I have had for several years and whose classes I really enjoyed.
Spartana: What are you looking forward to most about college?
Trexler: I am really looking forward to the independence that comes with college. I am also looking forward to the challenge and classes that I will truly enjoy.
Spartana: What will you miss most about high school?
Trexler: I will miss seeing my friends who are attending different schools then me, and miss the regularity of high school.

"Start early. It's never too early to start thinking about what college you like."

the ACADEMIC

Sachin Jain

Undecided

Spartana: What do you plan on majoring in?
Jain: Biology and Psychology
Spartana: Where do you see yourself after college?
Jain: At medical school.
Spartana: What activities, clubs and extracurriculars did you participate in during high school?
Jain: Marching Band, Speech Team, Key Club, National Honors Society, Spanish Club, volunteer at Lutheran Hospital, and two research internships
Spartana: Which year of high school was most important to you?
Jain: Junior year because I began to take more career specific classes as well as more challenging classes.
Spartana: What did you do during high school in preparation for college and applying to college?
Jain: I took more classes that would help me in college.
Spartana: How many schools did you apply to?
Jain: Eight.
Spartana: How did you select which schools to apply to, what did you look for in a college?
Jain: I selected schools that are strong in the medical field.
Spartana: How did you begin the college application process?
Jain: I researched the schools that I was interested in.
Spartana: How did you choose who wrote your letters of recommendation?
Jain: I chose teachers of classes I did well in.

"I am looking forward to meeting new people and exploring a new environment."

the JOCK

Jena Hamrick

Coastal Carolina

Spartana: Where are you going to college next fall?
Hamrick: Coastal Carolina.
Spartana: What activities, clubs and extracurriculars did you participate in during high school?
Hamrick: Basketball, Softball, Dirty Duckers and Dance Marathon.
Spartana: What year of high school was most important to you?
Hamrick: Junior year because that's when I decided to play basketball at Coastal Carolina.
Spartana: What did you do during high school in preparation for college and applying to college?
Hamrick: I played travel basketball at exposure tournaments, which is where Coastal saw me play.
Spartana: How many schools did you apply to?
Hamrick: One.
Spartana: How did you select which schools to apply to, and what did you look for in a college?
Hamrick: I only applied to the school that offered me a scholarship.
Spartana: How did you begin the college application process?
Hamrick: I started sending tapes to Coastal after my freshman year and kept in contact with them throughout my four years.
Spartana: Have any teachers, counselors, parents or coaches been influential in your school selection?
Hamrick: I wouldn't say anyone influenced my decision but my parents and coaches supported my decision.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people, growing as a person, and being near the beach."

the PRESIDENT

Joanna Nguyen *Undecided*

Keep a digital profile of your high school life so that you can easily copy it to your applications.

Spartana: What do you plan on majoring in?
Nguyen: Business and Economics
Spartana: Where do you see yourself after college?
Nguyen: Working in the business field.
Spartana: What activities, clubs and extracurriculars did you participate in during high school?
Nguyen: DECA, French Club, Key Club, STAND, Hospitality Club, Student Government, National Honors Society, and Tennis
Spartana: What are your study habits, if any?
Nguyen: Take good notes in class and review them before tests and quizzes. Also read the chapter summaries and review the glossary in all of the textbooks.
Spartana: Is there anything you regret about high school, anything you wish you had participated in or done differently?
Nguyen: I wish I would have tried harder in class.
Spartana: What did you do during high school in preparation for college and applying to college?
Nguyen: Meeting deadlines, doing homework, getting good grades, and getting involved.
Spartana: How many schools did you apply to?
Nguyen: Seven.
Spartana: How did you select which schools to apply to, what did you look for in a college?
Nguyen: I wanted to apply to schools that had a good business program and was in a good location.
Spartana: How did you begin the college application process?
Nguyen: I went on all the colleges' websites and then visited schools that I liked.
Spartana: How often did you work your counselor during the admission process?
Nguyen: She helped with all of my applications.
Spartana: Have any teachers, counselors, parents or coaches been influential in your school selection?
Nguyen: Yes, I applied to schools that were in cities that I have family in.
Spartana: How did you choose who wrote your letters of recommendation?
Nguyen: I asked the teachers that I had for more than one year.
Spartana: What are you looking forward to most about college?
Nguyen: Being independent and on my way to achieving my goals.
Spartana: What will you miss most about high school?
Nguyen: I will miss everything except waking up early.

the MUSICIAN

Steven Uhey *Ball State*

Spartana: Where are you going to college next fall?
Uhey: Ball State
Spartana: What do you plan on majoring in?
Uhey: Music Technology
Spartana: Where do you see yourself after college?
Uhey: Hopefully working with a record label in a big city.
Spartana: What activities, clubs and extracurriculars did you participate in during high school?
Uhey: All types of band, the Drumline, Earthfest and the variety show.
Spartana: What year of high school was most important to you?
Uhey: Junior year because that was the first time I did the variety show.
Spartana: What did you do during high school in preparation for college and applying to college?
Uhey: I did as much musical activity as possible.
Spartana: How many schools did you apply to?
Uhey: One.
Spartana: How did you select which schools to apply to, and what did you look for in a college?
Uhey: I wanted to larger, public school that wasn't too far away with a music technology major.
Spartana: How did you begin the college application process?
Uhey: I searched for schools with a music technology major.
Spartana: What will you miss most about high school?
Uhey: I am going to miss teachers like Mr. Lough.

"I'm looking forward to the freedom of college and getting away from a 7:50-2:35 schedule, 25 minutes for lunch and 6 minutes to get from class to class."

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
SACS Sick Bank Committee running low on sick days and seeking extra days from teachers with spares. 2A

LIFE
Slippery roads from winter weather cause lots of crashes, the Spartana gives advice on what to do when it happens. 4A

FEATURE
Girls swim team places second at state tournament last weekend due to team effort from freshmen and upperclassmen. 8A

OPINION
Ed board responses to proposal to name the city's new Government Center after former mayor, Harry Baals. 3A

SPORTS
Girls basketball team wins Sectional title for the first time in past decade and advances to regionals this weekend. 6A

WEBSITE
The Spartana's website is currently under reconstruction and is expected to launch again prior to the beginning of April.

Thursday, February 17, 2011 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Show choir's Cabaret Night raises funds for choral department

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Elite, Class Royale kick-off performance season with 'huge success'

BY TORI BARNARD
Writer

Homestead Show Choirs hosted their annual Cabaret Night on Feb.4. The event is an annual showcase and fundraiser for the choral department and has become a traditional show choir event to kick off competition season.

"This year was a huge success," Curtis Shaw, Homestead choral director, said. "We raised a very nice amount of money."

All of the money from the evening's auctions and raffles goes towards the choral department.

Cabaret Night provides show choirs Elite and Class Royale and back-up band Anonymous Blue the opportunity to display their shows in front of an audience before competition season. The groups have been preparing their shows since September.

"We [had] our first competition the day after, and it's good to get out any performing jitters in front of friends and family before the first competition," Brooke O'Mara (10), Elite member, said. "Cabaret is quite helpful because everyone gets a feel for performing, and this helps people feel more prepared and comfortable on stage."

Unlike competitions, Cabaret Night is a more relaxed environment for the choirs to perform, and the evening provides an opportunity to

SEE 'CABARET NIGHT,' PAGE 2A

Nicole Miller (12) performs during Class Royale's show, "Earth, Wind And Fire."

BRIEFS

DANCE MARATHON
Dance Marathon will be held from Friday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. until Saturday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. in the auxiliary gym. For students participating, additional money collected can be turned in to the fundraiser committee in an envelope the night of the event. Students not participating can come to the event for $5 from 8 p.m. to midnight.

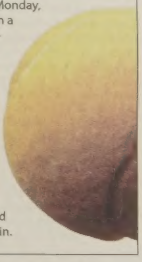
CHESS CLUB
Chess players are invited to take part in a robotic chess competition at Science Central Saturday, Feb. 26 between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Students may play on the robotically-driven Monster Chess set against a Ft. Wayne chess expert.

MUSICAL AUDITIONS
Casting for the spring musical Bye Bye Birdie will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 22 and Wednesday, Feb. 23. Sign up for an audition on the board outside of Room 404. Come prepared with a one minute audition song. Singing auditions are from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and readings will begin after. Students auditioning must be able to stay for both sections. Call-backs will be Thursday, Feb. 24.

KILBOURNE SCHOLARSHIP
Applications for the Kilbourne Scholarship are now available online. Visit the scholarship listing for details. The Kilbourne Scholarship program gives away hundreds of thousands of dollars exclusively to Allen County seniors each year. Awards are based on community service, academic achievement and financial need.

SAT
The SAT will be offered for the first time at Homestead in May and June. Stop by Student Services for more information or visit collegeboard.com to register.

TENNIS
The girls tennis season will begin Monday, Mar. 14 with a meeting after school in Room 904 in the Academy. A physical form needs to be filed i before practice and games begin.



Teacher clinic to cut medical expenditures

BY DAN VANDEVEER
Copy Editor

Following the recent economic downturn, the school has swiftly implement opportunities to save money. As part of these plans, the school and all other parties involved are in favor of starting a new clinic for teachers.

"The chance of [the new teachers clinic opening] is nearly 100 percent," Tim Decker, insurance board member, said. "At the last meeting, everyone was in favor of moving forward with it. It had the support of all necessary parties. The goal is to have it open by the beginning of next school year."

The mission of the program is to provide care to teachers for free by starting a clinic in the freshmen academy.

"The purpose of the clinic is for teachers to have easy access to medical care during school hours," Decker said. "The thought process is to provide teachers with an early treatment for their illness. Instead of them missing days, they can catch their illness in the early stage and have it treated, and keep them in school more."

> "The thought process is to provide teachers with an early treatment for their illness.
> **TIM DECKER**
> *Insurance Board Member*

The new clinic is necessary because the school clinic is often crowded with students, according to the school nurses.

"We do deal with teachers every once in a while," Maria Lund, one of the school's nurses, said. "We just take their blood pressure and check their heart rates, usually."

Although opening a new clinic to save money may seem contradictory, the plan is in fact true. The reason is that trips to the doctor's office can often be expensive, and by being treated within the school, teachers thus

SEE 'CLINIC,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY BETH HUBER

Staying above the influence remains below national average

BY JOE JANIZEK
News Editor

The school's effort to prevent drug use among the student body has a noticeable presence in students' daily lives. Students who participate in extracurricular activities or who drive to school are randomly drug tested, and a drug-sniffing dog patrols the halls throughout the day. The exact amount of drug use at any school is difficult to estimate and prevent, but measures taken by the school, including a survey, drug testing, and an interdiction dog, aim to minimize substance abuse.

Survey

An upcoming survey of student drug use aims to present an accurate depiction of drug use at Homestead. This survey, last given in 2009, asks students about their use of illicit substances over the past thirty days.

"The survey is the only indication of overall drug use among students," Anita Gross, school social worker, said.

While the survey asked questions about 24 illicit substances, Gross's report over the survey, which can be found on the district website, only included information involving cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana. The statistics on other substances showed a greater amount of use.

In 2008, the last year the national survey was given, Homestead's level of drug use exceeded national levels for 13 out of 16 substances. For example, 4.3% of twelfth grade students at Homestead had used cocaine within 30 days of the survey, while nationally only 1.9% of students had. Also, 2.5% of Homestead seniors reported heroin use compared to 0.4% nationally.

Homestead seniors additionally exceeded national levels for use of crack, inhalants, methamphetamines, tranquilizers, LSD, non-LSD psychedelics, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, steroids and MDMA.

Students said the survey seemed to confirm their anecdotal evidence.

"I would say Homestead has a pretty moderate drug problem," Hunter Thompson* (11) said.

The presence of harder drugs among the student body has also been notable.

"[Hard drugs] are pretty prevalent, and I've seen them at parties occasionally," Thompson said. "I've heard of cocaine use and LSD use."

There still seems to be a definite trend towards increasing drug use. While most areas shown in the report show decreased levels, "the reported use of cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana [have] increased at some grades levels" since 2008,

SEE 'DRUGS,' PAGE 2A

DRUG DEPENDENCY

In the 2009 drug Survey given to 3,455 students grades 6 through 12 Seniors reported the following drug use:

- 16.5% reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days.
- 29.1% reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.
- 21.3% reported drinking alcohol in the past two weeks.
- 12% reported the use of marijuana in the past 30 days.

ACCORDING TO THE 2009 HOMESTEAD STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Dance team looks ahead to competitions

Team renews focus after invitational despite setbacks

BY RYAN BOYLAN
Writer

Dancers from middle and high schools throughout Indiana came together to perform at the annual Homestead Dance Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Proceeds from the invitational, which came from the five dollar admission fee, concessions, and program sales, will go towards competition fees for the dance team, hotel rooms for the dancers when they attend the State competition, and transportation.

Although only participating in an exhibition category, Homestead dancers performed an array of dance styles at the invitational, including a specialty dance performed by only seniors.

"The Senior Dance was choreographed just for our invitational and we also perform it at our Spring show," varsity team member Molly Quinn (12) said. "We started doing it last year, so this is the second year that we've done it. It's just another thing we do to make the invitational special."

Another highlight of the Homestead invitational was a performance by the Soul Brothers, a group of four hip-hop dancers with Down syndrome that perform songs such as "Soul Man" by the Blues Brothers and "Sharp Dressed Man" by ZZ Top. Their performance at the show allows the Soul Brothers to experience an overwhelming outpouring of support by the community. The Soul Brothers are taught and choreographed by Homestead junior varsity dance coach Lisa Root.

"[The performance] was really amazing," junior varsity team member Monica Dollive (10) said. "Everybody in the stands was cheering and it was just a really fun time for everybody."

> **18**
> Girls are currently on the varsity dance team.

This year, the varsity team is performing three dances as a team; pom, lyrical and jazz. While the team has not thus far placed as well as they would like in competition, the team is hopeful that increased work and changes to their jazz and lyrical dances will improve their scores and placement in the upcoming regional and state competitions.

"We're doing a unique jazz number as a team, and this is the first year Homestead has done anything like it, so it should be fun," Lauren Arnold (12) said. "It's going to be incorporating a lot of partnering and verbal content, while the lyrical dances are going to be more individually based and are going to incorporate a lot of new choreography."

Within the past week, Madison Eshelman (12), three year varsity member and team leader suffered a knee injury that will require

SEE 'DANCE TEAM,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Molly Quinn (12) puts emotion into her dance. After seven years of SACS dancing, her final season on the varsity team is coming to a close.

Summer building renovations to accommodate growing student body

BY KIRSTEN OVERDAHL
Copy Editor

Homestead will undergo renovations this coming summer as the school accommodates for current traffic flow concerns. While finalized plans remain in the works, current plans include widening the ramp by the cafeteria and sound-proofing the math classrooms.

The renovations address the growing crowding concerns students experience daily on the cafeteria ramp.

"The ramp has always been very congested during passing periods, which creates a bottleneck for students [and] slows down movement and flow," Rick Smith, Homestead principal, said.

The ramp is problematic in the mornings and during lunch periods as well as between passing periods. According to Steve Lake, Homestead assistant principal, traffic flow is heavy in the mornings as students from all three student parking lots enter Door 7 and then use the cafeteria ramp as a main thoroughfare to different parts of the building. During lunch modules, the ramp is one of the two most heavily-trafficked routes to the cafeteria. Therefore, over the summer, the ramp will be widened to account for these heavy student influxes.

Crowding concerns extend into lunch modules as well. Additional possibilities to handle growing student numbers in each lunch module are also in discussion, according to Lake and Smith. Homestead will likely transition to five lunch modules over two periods next year, which would reduce the number of students in each lunch module from about 720 students to about 440 to 450 students.

"The number of students we've had in one lunch mod has been far too high for the number of supervisors we have available to rotate through the lunch mods," Smith said. "Students should end up having about the same amount of time for lunch, but will net more time to eat due to the greatly reduced time it will take to get through the lunch lines."

An additional renovation possibility is imminent: math hallway classrooms may also receive revisions and updates. The math hallway is among the oldest parts of Homestead - it is part of the original building - and the architecture of the math classrooms does not account for the noise made by the current number of students.

"The math wing of the building was built back in [19]58, [and] the ceiling tiles have a hard surface that makes the sound reverberate," Lake said.

The administration is in the process of talking with the renovation architects to assess the math hallway possibilities that are available

SEE 'RENOVATIONS,' PAGE 2A

Sick Bank Committee seeks extra sick days

BY ANDREW YDE
Copy Editor

In Southwest Allen Country Schools (SACS) and in any other school district, teachers will unlikely be able to go an entire year without becoming sick or experiencing some sort of problem that would require an absence from work. For this reason, teacher representatives, one from each school in the district, have teamed up to form the SACS Sick Bank Committee.

Currently, the Sick Bank, a means to store extra sick days for teachers who fall victim to extended illnesses or family problems that take them beyond their ten-day skip limit, has fallen beneath the minimum 150 days. This drop below the "magic number" is not terribly uncommon or grave, but it has prompted Sick Bank Committee members to take action.

"We are running low on days because a number of teachers have health issues that require their being out of school for long periods of time," Frank Letizia, Sick Bank Committee representative for Woodside Middle School, said. "I don't see [the fall below 150 days] as unusual."

Some teachers who do not use all of their paid sick days have carried over such days through multiple years, stockpiling enough to go on a paid vacation. However, as a result of the recent fall below 150 sick days in the Bank, Sick Bank Committee members have asked, but not required, that those teachers donate a reasonable amount of such stockpiled days to the Bank. The donations would allow teachers who have used up their own paid absences to stay home from work in order to recover from serious physical injury or illness.

The Sick Bank Committee can only request sick day donations from teachers when there are less than 150 days banked, according to Letizia. At the same time, teachers can only donate one sick day per Sick Bank Committee request. Some teachers believe that requests should be sent out before the Bank becomes low to make certain that a considerable amount of days are still available for donation.

> "I Wish the Sick Bank could request days at the beginning of the year.
>
> **TATIANA ARIAS**
> *Spanish Teacher*

"I wish the Sick Bank could request days at the beginning of the year, even if it is not low, because, as a teacher with a young family, I sometimes have no days to donate by the end of the year," Tatiana Arias, Spanish teacher, said.

When discussing the current dilemma concerning the lack of days held by the Sick Bank, SACS teachers do not seem too anxious. Arias, for example, has never had to use the Sick Bank.

Despite Sick Bank Committee members asking teachers to donate days to the Bank when it is low, SACS educators who are consistently healthy and do not require extra days are not inconvenienced by the Sick Bank's presence. Days are not required to be donated; they are simply requested.

"I've never had a problem with it," Arias said.

Although some teachers are never caught in situations that reduce them to requesting sick days from the Sick Bank Committee, most teachers understand the importance of the Sick Bank for the health of SACS teachers who are experiencing difficulties in overcoming illnesses, injuries or family crises. Even students see its value.

"I think the Sick Bank is a good idea," said Jake Herber (10). "With it, teachers that need more days for something that they cannot do with the limited days they receive can now do it."

CLINIC CONTINUED FROM 1A

avoid these expenses.

"Letting the teachers get treatment within the school is a win-win situation; it saves the school system and the teachers money," Jon Baker, history teacher, said. "By going directly to the clinic, it saves the costs of an office visit."

The clinic will bypass a flat co-pay that all teachers must pay when visiting a doctor's office.

"The new clinic will save a lot of money," Decker said. "With the medical insurance we have, there's a $15 co-pay that we pay every time we visit the doctor. With this, we can receive medical treatment free of charge ... medicines will also be readily available for purchase. The space for the clinic will be of minimal cost to buy, too."

The hours of operation of the clinic are still undetermined, but teachers and insurance board members do have a rough idea of when the clinic would be available.

"The hours of operation will probably be from 2:30 [pm] to 6 [pm]," Decker said. "That way, spouses and kids could get to the clinic for medical attention as well."

Were these hours put into place, teachers who feel the onset of sickness during the school day could then go to the clinic after school and receive treatment right away. If the illness became too severe, however, teachers would probably still visit the normal clinic.

"If the clinic is only open a few hours a day, depending on when the teachers feel sick, they would probably still come down to the clinic in the main building during the day," Lund said.

When the 2011-2012 school year begins, the teachers' clinic may be implemented and potentially will cut reduce the amount of teacher absences due to illness.

RENOVATIONS CONTINUED FROM 1A

financially. If all goes well, architects will renovate the math hallway classrooms over the summer to incorporate sound-proofing remedies, according to Smith.

News of the summer renovations was announced at the Southwest Allen County school board meeting on Jan. 18. At that meeting, the Board of School Trustees selected Moake Park Group as the architect group for the renovations. Since the meeting, word of the news has generated growing excitement among students, all of whom are acutely aware of the complications the ramp's bottleneck causes.

"Whenever I go onto the ramp, it is so congested that I have to significantly lessen my pace," Sahand Emamian (11) said. "I step on the backs of people's shoes, people step on mine. It's a daily ordeal."

The administration hopes the renovations will decongest the cafeteria commons area and the math hallway during passing periods and lunch modules. Math teachers will be able to proceed in their instructional time uninterrupted by hallway noise, and students will be able to travel their paths to classes without getting stuck in the notorious traffic jam.

DANCE TEAM CONTINUED FROM 1A

surgery and put her out for the rest of the season. As a result, the team will not only have to perfect their current choreography, but re-choreograph portions of all of their dances to make her absence unnoticeable to the judges. Though her surgery is a setback to the team, the girls are hopeful that hard work and focus will allow them to continue to improve in her absence.

The dance team will compete at the Indiana High School Dance Team Association (IHSDTA) North Regional competition at Mishawaka High School on Saturday, March 5. Contingent the team's placement at the regional competition, the team will wrap their season up at the IHSDTA Team State Championships on Saturday, March 19 in Indianapolis.

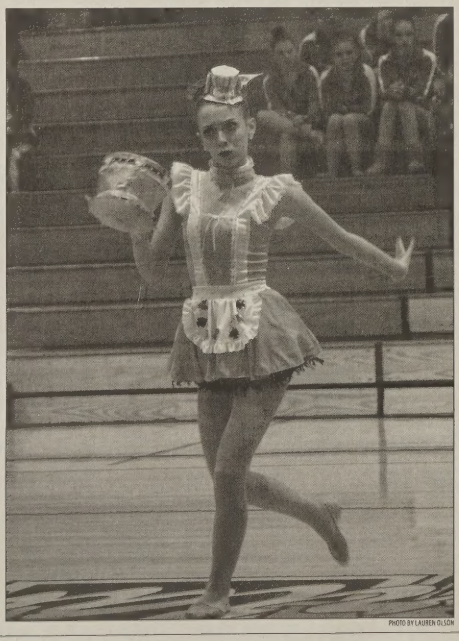


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Emma Franklin (10) performances during the Dance Invitational in the "Tea Party."

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DRUGS CONTINUED FROM 1A

according to the report. Students have expressed agreement with this upward trend.

"I think [drug use] has been increasing," Thompson said. "It would be pretty easy to get drugs at Homestead. People could ask around and find drugs pretty easily."

While the survey seemed to show high levels of drug use, Gross said that the levels reported in the survey may not be as important as overall trends.

"With any survey there are students who minimize their use, and students who exaggerate, so we look more at trends rather than specific numbers," Gross said. "In any survey you will get some fraudulent responses."

Drug Testing

The school has taken measures to deter students from participating in illicit substance use. One of the most noticeable of these measures is the random drug testing program.

Students who are in extracurricular activities, or who drive to school, are put into a database which randomly assigns them a number. When a student's number is randomly selected, they are called down to give a urine sample that is then sent to Witham Toxicology Lab. Students who fail the random drug tests are suspended from extracurricular activities in accordance with the student discipline policy in the student handbook.

Additionally, as an alternative to expulsion or suspension, students who violate the school's drug and alcohol policies can participate in the Student Assistance Program (SAP). They are then required to meet with a SAP Coordinator and agree to "refrain from any further violation" of the policy, and also must attend a drug education class.

While the drug testing is meant to deter drug use, the efficacy of the program has been questioned by students.

"I don't think [random drug testing] is much of a deterrent, because the people who are using drugs may not fall under the category of people who need to be tested," Thompson said.

The number of students caught by the testing would also seem to verify this assertion.

"The percentage of students getting caught has stayed pretty much the same over the course of the program," Gross said.

The lack of legal consequence from the tests may also be a factor in the low success rate.

"Random drug testing does not result in any legal disciplinary action," school resource officer Jeremy Tinkel said.

Also, the 4190 Drug Testing Policy states that "no student shall be expelled or suspended from school as a result of any positive test under this random testing program."

It costs $15 to test each student, though this money does not come out of the regular school funds.

"We pay for drug testing through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant, and when the grant runs out the No Alcohol No Drugs task force has agreed to pay for the testing," Gross said.

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant can be used for drug testing, but also could be put to other purposes, according to the Department of Educations website. The grant is meant to "provide financial assistance for drug and violence prevention activities and activities that promote the health and well being of students."

Interdiction Dog

In addition to the drug testing program, the school also has used a drug-sniffing dog.

"We have the interdiction dog in the building every single day," Tinkel said.

Tinkel expressed his confidence in the dog's ability and in the effectiveness of his use.

"There's been a good success rate and he's never had a false reading," Tinkel said. "[Using the dog] is meant to be a deterrent for drugs and guns."

Despite the fact that students have known that the dog will be in the building, they still have brought drugs to school.

"The dog has alerted on vehicles this year," Tinkel said.

The interdiction dog seems to be a more effective method of preventing drug use than random drug testing, according to students.

"I wouldn't say [students use drugs at school] very often, because of the drug dog probably," Thompson said.

Tinkel affirmed this, citing the number of times students have been arrested throughout his career at the school.

"Since I've started here the number of arrestable offences have dropped significantly," Tinkel said.

The effectiveness of the interdiction dog may be due to the fact that it actually carries legal consequences, meaning students face harsher consequences from doing drugs on school grounds than they would elsewhere.

"I don't think the punishment should be the same [for drugs] if it were done on school property," Kaleb Schlatter (10) said. "If a filthy habit such as drug use is played out on school property, that's one thing and the school has the right to approach the student considering they're on school grounds."

While the school has shown progress on combating the issue, drug use still is prevalent among the student body.

"Any time you get a group of over 2,000 adolescents, you're going to have problems with drugs and alcohol," Tinkel said.

CABARET NIGHT CONTINUED FROM 1A

work out any kinks in the shows.

"The best part is that you don't have to worry about being judged," Matt Sagstetter (11), a saxophonist in Anonymous Blue, said. "It's all about getting comfortable with your show and feeling the music."

Cabaret Night began with a silent auction in the cafeteria prior to the performances, during which guests had the opportunity to bid on items from fitness memberships to civic theater tickets. During this pre-show event, a complimentary spread of food and drinks, including an oil and vinegar tasting bar from The Olive Twist and catering by Fort Wayne Newspapers, was also available. Guests mingled with show choir members while Anonymous Blue provided musical entertainment.

"It's my first year doing [Anonymous Blue], but I can tell that the season wouldn't be the same if you didn't star out with [Cabaret Night]," Sagstetter said. "It is a great way to start off the year."

In addition to performances by the Chamber Ensemble, Elite and Class Royale, Cabaret Night featured a guest performance by Out Of the Dawg House, the premier all-male a cappella group at Butler University.

"Our new special guest performers, Out of the Dawg House, were awesome," Shaw said.

In between the performances, a live auction was led by auctioneer Josh Lewis and Ace McKay from Star 88.3, the Master of Ceremonies for the night. The most popular item during the live auction was a Senior Parking Spot reserved for the student, providing easy access to the school in the morning and for any school events. The parking spot was sold for $625. Other items sold included trips to Florida, Las Vegas, and Nashville for the National Show Choir competition.

625
Dollars was raised from the parking spot sold.

Parent volunteers are vital to Cabaret Night, according to Shaw.

"A lot of work goes into making this night a success," Shaw said. "Paula Jewson and Lisa Yde were the two parents that did the most work on this night."

With tickets set at $10, the auditorium was packed.

"My favorite part about Cabaret Night is the crowd," O'Mara said. "This year's crowd was huge, and being a person who absolutely loves performing in front of a ton of people, the more the better."

Elite received placed fourth, Class Royale placed second and Anonymous Blue won Best Combo for Girls' Competition at the Northrop competition the following day. Shaw is confident in the groups during the remainder of their competition season.

"I expect great things from the kids this year," Shaw said.

the SPARTANA

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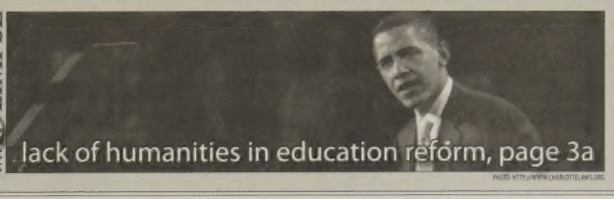
OPINION

the GLIMPSE



lack of humanities in education reform, page 3a

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Emphasis on science in public education system discourages humanities

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Opinion Editor

In his recent State of the Union address, President Obama encouraged American educators to place increased emphasis upon excellence in science and mathematics. Obama is merely one of many crying for a shift toward vocational education, but such statements are telling of an impending dark age. As the chasm between the humanities and the sciences widens, America careens headlong toward an intellectual crisis that means more than putting a group of college graduates out of work– it means discarding deep thought and cultural inheritance.

Why must knowledge be serviceable or utilitarian? Education as an intellectual pursuit for the advancement of humankind and comprehension of the human condition has ceased to exist; instead, education has been metamorphosized into a crash-course preparation for "real life." There was once a time in which education was more than the transmission of information, but rather a forum for the exploration of life's mystery by means of works inherited from the past. Knowledge should not exist solely as a finite entity or as currency in a global economy; its value is of far greater meaning than the securing of a career.

In Kentucky, legislation is being pushed in order to provide up to $7500 bonuses to AP and International Baccalaureate teachers whose students score fives on science and mathematics examinations. Why should humanities teachers not be rewarded similarly? A teacher is an advocate for students regardless of the subject taught; though success in quantitative subjects is easier to measure in standardized testing, there exists nothing to suggest that science and mathematics teachers in any way work harder or perform better than humanities teachers. If Kentucky is to institute a system of merit bonuses, the system should not be preferential, as no discipline is any more or any less valid than another.

Humanities bring students in contact with the best the world can offer– music, philosophy, history, art, and literature. A solid grounding in the humanities enriches life, extends consciousness of the world, and enhances comprehension of cultural inheritance by means of bringing students in contact with great minds of bygone eras. While the validity of the sciences is not to be minimized, the humanities are every bit as fundamental in understanding why humankind does what it does as the sciences are in understanding why humankind works the way it works. It must also be remembered that not every student is cut out for the sciences, and those who are not should be permitted equal opportunity to shine in their own disciplines.

Slashing arts and humanities funding right and left in public schools will not assist America in re-establishing its global dominance in education; it will merely rob students of a well-rounded education and alienate those who lack aptitude in the sciences. Putting America back on top will not come of educational tunnel vision; after all, even the most brilliant science and mathematics intellects will seem inconsequential when scientists and mathematicians lack the critical thinking skills to interpret their findings and the comprehension of language conventions necessary to present them. American students deserve better than a narrow, unbalanced education, and they deserve to understand that knowledge is not a commodity to be bartered or a destination to which one can rush.

▶▶$7,500
could potentially be awarded to teachers who AP or IB students score fives on science and math exams.

"Every age without letters is dark," Aeneas Sylvius once claimed. Those pulling the strings in education had best remember Sylvius' words– after all, the country that downgrades humanities education does so at its own peril.

Ed Board endorses naming building after Harry Baals

For a seemingly interminable amount of years, Homestead students have waxed poetic regarding the lack of nationwide recognition and diminutive stature possessed by Fort Wayne. Lengthy references to the city on both Jimmy Kimmel and Craig Ferguson have metaphorically put Fort Wayne on the map, though not for the reasons that the aforementioned students often hope– instead, the Summit City has become a one-hit-wonder punchline.

Fort Wayne's unprecedented explosion of nationwide notoriety stems from a vote gone viral: as the city's newly-constructed government center lacks a title, Feedback Fort Wayne put it to a vote by providing numerous wide-ranging choices that reflect the city's history. Harry Baals Government Center, titled after one of Fort Wayne's longest-tenured mayors whose surname just so happens to be pronounced "balls," leads with a staggering majority and has invited seemingly limitless ridicule from late-night television hosts.

Why should Baals' accomplishments be minimized due to the fact that current inhabitants of the city for which he served dutifully and accomplished numerous beneficial reforms are immature? Baals' name should not determine whether he is honored; his actions should, and as he evidently did more than enough for the city so as to warrant the building bearing his name, then the building should be named accordingly regardless of ridicule. Baals' name is only humorous because juvenile citizens make it so. Though the name will inevitably be the subject of chuckles, Baals should not be barred from the distinction potentially bestowed upon him because of immature humor.

One must also consider the touristic benefits of the Harry Baals Government Center; Jimmy Kimmel joked that travelers far and wide will visit the Summit City so as to take a photograph with the building's sign. Would this be such a bad thing? Tourists flocking to the building will pour revenue into Fort Wayne hotels, attractions, and restaurants during their stay, and as such, naming the center after Harry Baals may have more benefits than giving Fort Wayne's former mayor the honor he deserves.

Those pulling the strings regarding the christening of the government center should focus on what Harry Baals stood for, not the unfortunate connotation of his name. If members of Fort Wayne truly wish to broadcast the image of an upstanding city, backing down due to ridicule is far less representative of that image than honoring those who deserve honor regardless of consequences.

THE ED BOARD

Carrie Cummiskey | Joe Hanauer | Beth Huber | Mary Distler | Joe Janizek | Ben Mikesell | Adrienne Westenfeld

{The Bottom Line} Former mayor Harry Baals deserves to have the local government center named after him, despite the double meaning of his name.

PHOTO: HTTP://WWW.THEBLAZE.COM

U.S. has responsibility to support Egypt in transition to democracy as world leader

By Allison Mansfield
Writer

Thundering protests in Cairo captured the world's attention this month as civilian demonstrations against the 30-year rule of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resulted in his resignation from office. Confronted with this revolution, the United States is facing an age-old diplomatic dilemma: delicately balancing its democratic values and interests on foreign soil while not overstepping its diplomatic reach.

Positive relations with Egypt remain paramount to the United States as Egypt has historically been an important ally. Not only has Egypt served as one of the few Middle Eastern nations to take a pro-Western and pro-Israel stance, but the United States also has crucial Egyptian economic ties including transport of oil through the Suez Canal.

In an earlier public statement reacting to the protests, President Obama expressed vague empathy for and support of the Egyptian protestors and indicated a peaceful transition to a new administration must occur. While his ambiguity added little clarity to the United States' diplomatic posture, it is difficult to fault the Obama administration's management of this volatile situation.

Given recent developments, the role of the United States should be to provide support to the Egyptian military in promoting secular candidates who embody the ideals of the pro-democratic Egyptian people and to support oversight of a peaceful, non-violent transition. As a world leader, it is our responsibility to provide support to other countries making the difficult transition to a more democratic system of government.

The crisis in Egypt has concerned many Americans due to its similarity to the Iranian Revolution in which the pro-American shah fell and Ayatollah Khomeini galvanized an anti-American theocratic movement. This comparison is flawed as today's Egypt is backed by predominantly secular, non-violent protesters. But while the jubilation of the crowds in Tahrir Square implies a democratic victory, the Egyptian revolution could potentially go sour in a myriad of ways that may threaten democracy and U.S. interests in the Middle East.

For the United States, unanswered and troubling questions remain. How long should the Egyptian military continue to suspend the constitution? How long will martial law remain in effect? Will the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt incite a domino effect throughout the Middle East? Is it possible for civilian political institutions to organize themselves quickly enough in a country where democratic governments have been historically suppressed? Will the subsequent political process be considered legitimate by the people? Will more radical opposition groups advocating for theocracy manipulate the existing Egyptian democratic system and pose threats to the United States?

While there are no definitive answers to these questions, it is clear that Egypt must continue to move forward and ensure democratic, free elections. During this transition, the United States must continue to support the Egyptian military as it executes its mission of a peaceful transition. However, if the military becomes excessively oppressive or specific factions exhibit anti-American sentiment, the United States must continue to protect its interests; Uncle Sam should exercise diplomatic tact, but should not be a pushover.

Above: A protester in downtown Cairo, Egypt prior to President Hosni Mubarak's resignation from office.

facebook crawL

Every Sunday night Copy Editor and resident rap lyricist extrodanire Dan Vandeveer will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "I would rather _____ than see the new Justin Bieber movie."

Zach Eggebrecht ▶▶ "Spend an hour with Rosie O'Donall."
Alex Moore ▶▶ "Die."
Michael Hope ▶▶ "Give my grandmother a sponge bath"
Garrett Bastin ▶▶ "Go to Purdue."
Nolan Morgan ▶▶ " Watch multiple baskets of cute, baby kittens be thrown into a wood chipper."
Reid Kloster ▶▶ "I would rather lose my license, walk all the way to the DMV and stand in line, then be sent to a different DMV, wait in line again, only to realize that I had misplaced my license in my coat pocket than rather go see the new Justin Bieber movie."
Brad Reuille ▶▶ "Go skydiving with no parachute."
Ray Silva ▶▶ "Watch Nascar."
J.T. Parisi ▶▶ "Words can't even describe what I would rather do."
Dylan Hall ▶▶ "Sit through 3 hours of interpretive dancing."
Elle White ▶▶ "Fist fight a bear."
Alex Dickson ▶▶ "Hang out with the smooch crew."
Jim Finley ▶▶ "I came, I saw, I conquered. Vini vini vici, or however you say it in Latin."
Anuj Khemka ▶▶ "Hang myself."
Kevin Kaplansky ▶▶ "I'd rather cook a bagel from scratch."

PETA president's postmortem wishes questioned

Ingrid Newkirk's bizarre will draws negative attention to her organization

By Colton Shaffer
Writer

PETA, or the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has had an incredibly positive impact on the world. Being one of the most well known animal rights organizations, PETA works tirelessly to emphasize the importance of animal rights.

No one can question PETA's positive contribution to animals everywhere or the results they have achieved, but some of their methods and campaigns over the last few years are not quite so scrutiny-free. From violating the basic laws of respect at the gravesite of KFC icon Colonel Sanders to indecently provocative Super Bowl ads promoting vegetarianism, PETA continues to do whatever what it takes to make a point.

The trend persists with the publication of Ingrid Newkirk's will, the founder of PETA and its biggest advocate by far. In her will, Newkirk lays out her final wishes, which not only strain decency but also test the leniency of the law.

Newkirk plans to leave her body to PETA, to "draw attention to needless animal suffering and animal exploitation." This involves many questionable steps such as: having the meat of her body barbecued to draw a connection between human and animal meat, having her skin made into leather items such as shoes and purses, having her legs cut off and used as umbrella stands and numerous other ridiculous requests.

These acts, though intended to have a positive impact, actually do quite the opposite. The sheer incredulity of Newkirks wishes portrays PETA as overly aggressive, crude, and incredibly abrasive. Yes, these stunts will create massive publicity for the organization, but at the price of PETA losing almost all of its positive reputation.

The breaking of many moral issues aside, PETA and Newkirk will have a legal issue on their hands. The sending of human remains through the U.S. Postal Service is illegal, and with as many as Newkirk wishes to send, PETA could be charged with several misdemeanors or felonies.

Hoping to downplay the public outcry that resulted from the publication of her will, Newkirk made a statement saying "in every social movement, someone has broken the law." This statement is perfectly true, with examples such as the Underground Railroad coming to mind.

However, sending body parts to various people just does not compare to Harriet Tubman's battle to free generations of enslaved African Americans. Harriet Tubman was also an individual, and individuals have much greater ability to choose whether or not to follow the law based on their moral code.

PETA, being an organization, has an obligation to follow the law to the letter, and this is not keeping to that obligation. Also, in today's normally open-minded America, there are many more respected and legal ways to achieve similar results.

PETA is a blessing. They have prevented the cruel and unnecessary suffering of millions of animals world wide. To achieve their commendable goals, PETA has pushed boundaries, but this time, they've crossed a line.

PETA TIMELINE

1980- PETA organization founded by Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco.
1999- PETA launches campaign against McDonald's. Condemnation of other fast food restaurants follows.
2000- PETA launches "Got Beer" campaign encouraging college kids to drink beer instead of milk. MADD launches countercampaign.
2003- PETA protests Sigfreid and Roy's Las Vegas show and calls for the release of their tigers.
2007- Michael Vick took an eight hour course on animal cruelty following the revelation that he participated in dog fights.
2009- Various celebrities endorse PETA's "I'd rather go naked than wear fur" campaign by posing nude.
2011- PETA president Ingrid Newkirk releases her will, stating that after her death, she leaves her body to PETA. As a statement, she wants her skin made into leather and her body barbecued.

PETA

INFORMATION HTTP://WWW.PETA.ORG, PHOTO HTTP://WWW.EZQUARA.WORDPRESS.COM

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

show choir begins busy season, page 5a

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Art classes aim to develop right side of brain, increase creative talents

Required courses challenge those who lack natural artistic ability, fundamental strengths

BY AARIKA MANKEY
Writer

Students often consider art an inherent talent – that is, a talent that comes naturally to those with artistic abilities. For those who struggle on an artistic level, art as a course may seem pointless. Others, however, believe that art is a skill that can be taught to anyone with the desire to learn.

Luckily, for those students who have no desire to improve on their artistic capabilities, art is an elective course section; this means that students who lack talent or drive in one type of art class are granted the option to take only the art classes they feel comfortable with. In comparison to other required classes such as History, Biology, English and Geometry, visual arts classes can bring a positive outlet into the lives of students looking toward expressing their creativity or simply looking for less stress, more relaxation and time away from the books. Art courses can especially attract those who wish to work hands-on during the school day.

Within the classroom stand unique individuals, most of who are all aiming for the same goal: to pass the class. Considering the diversity of the student body, all students vary in their talents and abilities to succeed in art class. To those lacking the specific artistic abilities indirectly required of them for success, the manner of the grading system might seem unreasonable.

"There should not be such a strict grading system because when you have those with natural talent working alongside students more artistically challenged it is unfair," Heather Bond (10) said. "[The artistically challenged] try to get the grade but end up failing anyway."

> "I enjoy art because it expresses creativity and there seems to be a sense of freedom about it."
>
> **BROOKE TIEDGE (9)**
> *Art Student*

However, some individuals believe that claiming that art is a natural talent or a learned and applied ability is a stretch, and take a stand on both sides of the issue.

"Most of it is natural, but it can be perfected and polished," Jenn Kunkle (11), who is currently enrolled in an Intro to 2D art class, said.

On the other hand, taking an art course has its advantages, and most students who choose to participate do so because they personally appreciate it.

"I enjoy art because it expresses creativity and there seems to be a sense of freedom about it," Brooke Tiedge (9) said. "All students should at least consider taking an art class or two because you never know if you will like something until you try it."

Others find the beauty of art in the fact that it does not entail rigid answers in the same way that any mathematics course, for example, does.

"You can train your mind to see things through an artistic view, and from what I've heard from artists, practice is just as important as with any other task," Keegan Hockney (12) said. "I think art is for everyone. It trains you to think, act and maybe see things a different way, which is a good thing. Our administration puts so much focus on 'AP courses' and 'test scores' while they should really be encouraging students to put a little more focus on things they are not already capable of. It's simple; participate in what you preach."

To an art teacher's perspective and the perspective of numerous others, art can indeed be taught.

"Teaching art is relevant and the application is crucial," Mike Schmid, Intro to 2D and 3D Art teacher, said. "We are teaching creative problem solving. We are teaching students to form that right side of their brain: the side that rarely receives a chance to be exercised any other time throughout the day. As Albert Einstein said, 'A society's competitive advantage will come not from how well its schools teach the multiplication and periodic tables, but from how well they stimulate imagination and creativity.' The elements and principles can absolutely be taught," Schmid said. "Everyone has their own abilities; it is only when you step outside those comfort zones that you learn what it is to be alive."

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Consider following these steps post accident when winter weather results in slippery, dangerous roads

BY TEDMAN POPPLEWELL
Writer

Although car accidents are more prevalent in the winter season, the necessary procedure an individual must undergo after being involved in an accident never changes. However, because it is often difficult to be properly functioning after a car accident, it is important to know what to do first, and what questions may need to be answered.

Safety First.

If the car isn't totaled, pull off to the side of the road and turn on the car's hazard lights. Next, assess the situation for any injuries that may have been inflicted on the driver or any of the passengers. If there are injuries, call an ambulance immediately.

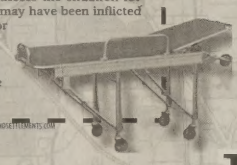


PHOTO COURTESY HTTP://WWW.LADYLEGANDSELFTAUGHTS.COM

Exchange Information.

It's important to get contact information from eye witnesses. Don't forget to write down the insurance information of the other driver such as the company name, address, phone number and policy number. Make a point to record the insurance information directly from the card to verify.

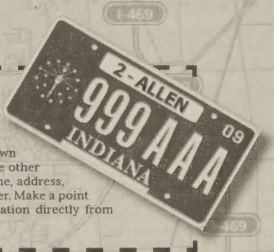


PHOTO COURTESY HTTP://MYTWELB.YA.GOV

Document the Accident.

Look for any witnesses who may have seen the incident. Make detailed notes about the accident and be sure to include weather and road conditions as well. If there is a camera handy, take a few pictures of the damage either of the vehicles have sustained and the position of each vehicle.

Remember to Get the Facts.

This is the part most individuals know to do, but often forget to execute after the accident for one reason or another. It is important to write down names, addresses and phone numbers of everyone involved in the accident. Record the make, model, color and year of the car, but make sure to also get their vehicle identification number of their car. Don't just assume the license plate number will do because most insurance companies only record the type of car and the vehicle identification number, not the license plate number.

Sort Out Legal Issues.

File a car accident report with the police. No matter how minor the accident may be, it's always important that there is a legal accident report. Never leave the scene until the police have made one and have given the owner of the car a copy. Also, make a point to record the names and badge numbers of any police at the scene.

Discuss the accident with the police and your insurance agency only. With everyone all shook up it can be hard not to talk about what happened. However, that can also lead to unclear and inaccurate thinking about what happened. It's always important to limit discussion of the accident and to admit any fault or liability.

PHOTO COURTESY HTTP://WWW.IMDEPENDENTAMERICAN.ORG

Don't Get Stuck Alone.

If at all possible when your car is breaking down, try to make it to a well-lit, well-populated area before stopping. Once stopped, put up the hood of the car and turn on its hazard lights. After the hood is up, get back into the vehicle and lock the doors. If there is a cell phone available, use it to contact a towing agency. If a stranger stops, roll the car's window down a little bit and ask them to call a towing agency if the call hasn't been made already.

Drivers are prone to accidents all year round. If these instructions are followed religiously, major issues can become minor.

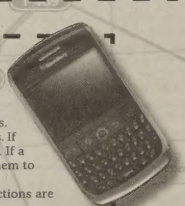


PHOTO COURTESY HTTP://WWW.CAMERAPHONESPLAZA.COM

Unconventional sleep patterns cause endless cycle of fatigue

Staff, students discuss effects of massive amounts of homework on much needed teen rest

BY DANI CASTONZO
Writer

The shrill ring of an alarm clock can be the most unwelcome sound at 6 a.m. With hours of homework, in addition to sports, show choir, band and other extracurricular, it often seems as if no student at Homestead High School is getting enough sleep.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, teenagers ages 10-17 need 9.5 to 10 hours of sleep. However, the average teen only gets around seven hours of sleep a night. Many newspapers, teachers, and professionals said they believe that this lack of sleep is caused by technology and other distractions, not the amount of homework assigned.

"I think teachers still need to assign homework," Mike Miller, P.E. teacher, said. "The problem is what else is going on in students' life beside homework. If one could get off the texting, Facebooking and messing around, the homework may not take that much time. I attribute outside influences and lack of organization more to extending homework time than to the actual length of assignments."

However, students report that their homework load ranged from one to six hours a night, depending on the rigor of the classes in which they are enrolled. When sports, clubs and other organizations are added to this homework, students admit it is often difficult to get their needed amounts of sleep.

"The homework load is too great when trying to balance it with sports," Zach Carlstrom (10) said. "I don't get enough sleep, which results in me not being focused for school the next day."

Getting hours of homework at night can also result in a student not being prepared for class the next day.

"It seems like the days I have show choir I get the most homework," Nikki Dolfuss (10) said. "I get home around six, eat, and do homework till after midnight. If I'm worried about homework I didn't finish, it's usually harder for me to fall asleep. For the most part I go to bed around 11-11:30 and wake up at 5:45, so I'm always super tired in the morning and can't pay attention in the class that the teacher loaded me with homework in."

However, other students said they find the homework load manageable, even when participating in extracurricular activities.

"A lot of my friends talk about the obscene amounts of homework they have and how they have had to pull all-nighters," Clayton Knappenberger (12) said. "I've never had that problem. Maybe I've just been lucky, or maybe I'm not working hard enough. I don't know."

Procrastination can also play a big part in students not getting enough sleep. When students get home after a long day of school, they do not want to get started on an enormous homework load. The intimidating pile of homework can ultimately end up being pushed back hours.

"Homework used to keep me up at night, but then I realized that doing straight homework without distractions speeds up the process," Rhys Weber (11) said. "[Getting enough sleep] makes it so that I can actually pay attention in class and stay awake in classes with boring teachers or a subject that just doesn't interest me."

Perhaps a combination of less homework and more organization is the solution to students getting their recommended hours of sleep.

"A lack of sleep absolutely affects students' performance," Anne Tiernon, gym and health teacher, said. "Kids who lack sleep struggle with lack of focus, energy and drive. Lack of sleep affects anyone, no matter what age you are."

Sleeping Tips

- Before you go to bed, listen to soothing music.
- Try to set up a routine and go to bed around the same time every night.
- If time permits, find a book you enjoy and read before going to bed.
- Attempt to fit in a workout shortly before bed.
- Avoid eating sugar and caffeine before bed.
- Don't fall asleep with the TV on.
- Refrain from texting before falling asleep

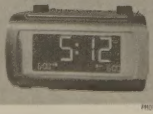


PHOTO COURTESY HTTP://WWW.GADGETGURU.COM

Touristic aspect of Israel lost in midst of new adventures

OVESEAREPORTS

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Associate Life Editor

"You're not a tourist; you're a pilgrim."

These are the words that have been constantly drilled into the heads of the 81 participants of the Eisendrath International Exchange program since we first arrived in Israel. The idea is that we're actually living in Israel; not just visiting. But it seems to me that "living in Israel" means "visiting a lot of caves."

I'm not kidding. In the two and a half short weeks I've been here we've gone spelunking, cave-walking, archaeological digging, burial cave exploring, etc. I was shocked one day when we passed a water cave and didn't go in it. Some of these field trips are a claustrophobe's nightmare.

In Hebrew, the word for a view is nof. My Jewish History teacher introduced us to this word on the first day of class when we climbed to the top of the tel conveniently located on the kibbutz. We gazed out all around us and admired the view. At every field trip we're encouraged to take out our nof-ameters to gauge what we see. The nice thing about being nestled in the Judean Hills is that every view is pretty, but that first nof was a ten.

Our next major field trip was to an ancient Canaanite, later Israelite, city called Gezer. While I arrived expecting to see a giant carrot, the literal meaning of gezer, I was still in awe of the site. It was home to 26 layers of civilization, and it was fascinating to see how archaeologists were able to draw conclusions from the abundance of pottery. Different thicknesses and colors correspond to different time periods and peoples. We climbed to the top of the site and admired Tel Aviv to one side and the Judean Hills blocking Jerusalem to the other. My nof-ameter: 7.

A few days later we visited another ancient civilization called Sattaf. We learned all about the religion of the Canaanites and how the Israelites developed terrace agriculture and irrigation. Nof-ameter: 6.5.

I think the thing that makes us most like pilgrims is that we've all come from different places to Israel for different reasons. We got on the airplane, the Mayflower if you will, and became a community. Besides, it's been pretty fun seeing all of the connections everyone has to each other. A group of kids go to synagogue with a former camp counselor. My roommate is the daughter of my grandpa's rabbi. Especially for those of us who came here with few previous connections, it's like everyone is extended family. It's good to know that if I ever decide to take a road trip around the United States, I'll have a place to stay every night as well as a tour guide.

Each day we'll sit in class and learn about the biblical stories of our ancestors. To me, more interesting is the stories of the people sitting beside me. There's a girl who lived on an ostrich farm. There's a guy who plays seven instruments. And it seems like everyone is a rabbi's kid.

"We've all come from different places to Israel for different reasons."

LAURA ZWEIG
Israli Correspondent

But really, it's so much more than that. It's a group of kids, most of whom have never met each other, that are thrown together in a close environment. It's amazing how quickly friendships are forged.

It's also strange how differently everyone talks. Maybe it's just because I come from Indiana where not a lot of people say "y'all" or "gnarly," but it can be amusing. Or it is until people mock me for saying "pop" instead of "soda." Apparently that's just a Midwest thing.

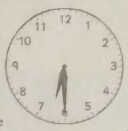
One aspect I love is the small class sizes. My APUSH class only has five people in it, whereas my Jewish History class of eighteen is considered huge. The seven person Spanish III class allows everyone the opportunity to speak and interact with each other. It's definitely a different learning environment than I'm used to at Homestead.

But after eleven hours of class six days week with a few field trips thrown in, there's nothing like walking back to your room like a zombie and seeing your bed. Nof-ameter: 10.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

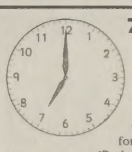
Full-day show choir competitions require more than on-stage performance

6:30 A.M. CALL TIME



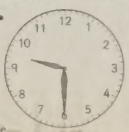
If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late. If you're late, then you're in trouble. Waking up around 5:45 on a Saturday morning is not what show choir members look forward to. After they've listened to chaperones read off name after name, they gather around to do a costume check. Each costume item is announced and then located inside what seems to be a never-ending bag.

7:00 A.M. THE BUS RIDE THERE



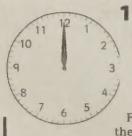
The lucky bus is always the quieter one. Elite usually performs first and in the mornings, so those members are encouraged to start talking. Bus rides range anywhere from 20 minute to two hours. Performers light up the dark bus with phones and iPod screens, texting and playing games.

9:30 A.M. PERFORMANCE TIME



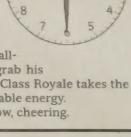
Girls start preparing an hour and a half before performance time in order to be ready. At 8:55, Elite lines up in the hallway followed by the back-up band, Anonymous Blue. Dressed in black, crew members made up of ten Class Royale girls tail behind Anonymous Blue dressed in black carrying the costume racks and props. From 9:00 to 9:25, Elite warms up while member of Class Royale make their way to the front of the auditorium, prepared to cheer. At 9:30, Elite takes the stage prepared to perform their best show. At some schools, there is a video viewing room where the choirs can see their show after their performance. During the vide viewing, the crew members go back to the homerooms, and sort and hang Elite's costumes.

12:00 P.M. LUNCH TIME



This is the one chance of having a normal meal for any show choir member. Bottles of Mountain Dew are consumed like wild-fire and the ever-so-common Arby's and Chik-Fil-A sandwiches are being sold faster than they can be restocked.

2:30 P.M. PERFORMANCE TIME

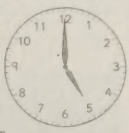


At 1 p.m., members of Class Royale begin to prepare for theirperformance. Lining up in the hallwayat 1:55, nerves begin to set in as each member mentally prepares for the upcoming show.

Thoughts such as, "It's step, kick, ball-change, step, kick," and "Don't forget to grab his bow-tie," fill each member's mind. At 2:30, Class Royale takes the stage, ready to exert every amount of available energy.

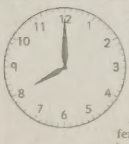
Elite members are seated in the front row, cheering.

5:00 P.M. AWARD CEREMONY



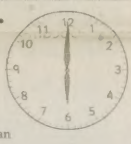
Daytime awards determine what groups have been victorious and made the night show. Each show choir sits with their group, some doing chants and familiar cheers. Caption awards are announced and, at some schools, there is an Outstanding Performer award that is given out. "We've been working hard for about six months now and it's finally paying off in our competitions," Mr. Shaw, Choral Director, said. "I was very proud of how hard the kids worked, especially after we missed three days of school before our first competition."

8:00 P.M. PERFORMANCE TIME



Having matching make-up and hair is crucial for many groups, especially Elite and Class Royale. One's make-up must be applied in a specific order and in a specific spot. The amount of make-up applied for a female member on one Saturday is equivalent to about two weeks' worth of make-up for an average make-up wearer. "I still have glue on my eyelashes from last Saturday," Danielle Doepke (12) said.

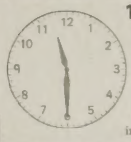
6:00 P.M. THE NIGHT SHOW



Making the night show is the one goal shared by every show choir member. Once the awards have commenced, the top groups for the day perform again hoping to improve their rank.

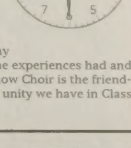
This is the last chance to make an impression the judges.

11:30 P.M. FINAL AWARDS



The host choir performs to kick off the final awards. The remaining caption awards and final order of winners is announced. Each group is told their rank at the beginning of the night show, a switch in rank of schools is rare but possible.

12:30 A.M. ARRIVE BACK AT HOMESTEAD



After a celebratory bus ride, each member grabs their costume bag and begins to make their way toward their cars. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what place a group gets or how many times that group messed up; it's about the experiences had and the memories made. "The best part of Show Choir is the friendship we create with everyone and all the unity we have in Class Royale and Elite," Derek Gulley (11) said.

Decisions split between best smartphone; student ownership increases

Apple iPhone 4, Motorola Droid rank amongst most popular cellphones for teenagers

BY KEVIN KUSISTO
Writer

Imagine traveling back in time and showing individuals the most impressive technology from 2011. Computers, Blu-ray players and cameras would all likely be impressive, but an iPhone would essentially show them the greatest advancement that modern society has yielded.

Internet and multimedia-enabled Smartphones are the newest and most impressive technology trend dominating the electronic landscape of today's market. These devices serve not only as telephones, but also as video cameras, camera phones with text messaging and visual voicemail, portable media players, internet clients with e-mail and web browsers, featuring 3G and Wi-Fi connectivity.

Currently, there are three popular options for those looking to buy a Smartphone: the iPhone, Apple's latest popular trendy electronic device, Google's Android operating system designed as a direct competitor to the iPhone, and the Windows Phone 7 operating system for Smartphones that features the added appeal of an operating system familiar to that which Windows 7 utilizes.

Cell phones are a large part of most high school students' lives, and, of those high school students owning cellphones, many own Smartphones, or at least have strong opinions concerning them. . The Android has also been gaining ground on the iPhone, outselling it last year.

"I have a Droid 2, and I think it is fantastic because it has a touch screen like the iPhone, but a physical QWERTY keyboard as well."

MARK TOWNSEND (10)
Droid 2 Owner

"I have a Droid 2, and I think it is fantastic because it has a touch screen like the iPhone, but a physical QWERTY keyboard as well," Mark Townsend (10), who considers his new Droid-enabled Smartphone a large step up from his last cell phone, said. "The iPhone apps are matched by the Droid Apps, and the touch screen lets you tap the one you want to open it, so that's a cool feature of the iPhone that the Droid copied."

The iPhone has its fans as well, though, and both sides can easily list the features of their Smartphone that trumps the other.

"I like how easy it is to view texts, and I like the apps," Nick Orth (12) said. However, he is willing to admit the technology is not perfect. "It can take a while to load sometimes, but things like that just happen," he says.

The most recent of the three Smartphones to be released, the Windows Phone 7, has few users at the school, most likely due to the short time since the launch of the Windows Phone 7 operating system on November 8th of last year.

In comparison, the first generation of iPhone was released January 9, 2007, and the first generation Droid launched November 5, 2007, giving both a head start on the competition by at least 3 years.

Many believe that Smartphones represent the evolution of cell phone technology and the traditional cell phone will be obsolete within years.

While it is too early to tell if this will be the case, the impressive sales of not just the iPhone, Android, and Windows Phone 7, but also of competing Smartphones by Blackberry, Linux, Samsung and others indicate that Smartphones will be around and evolving for years to come.

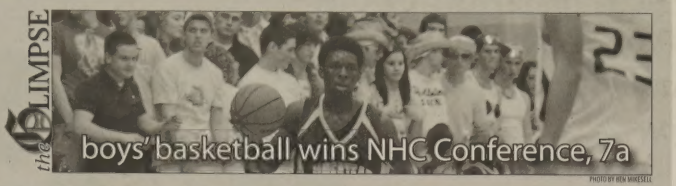
A TALE OF TWO GIANTS

iPhone 4
Released: June 2010
Retail Price: 199$ 16GB
Carriers: AT&T and Verizon

Droid X
Released: July 2010
Retail Price: 149$
Carriers: Verizon

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TECHSPOT.COM

SPORTS



Andrew Bowman (11), Kody George (11) look past semi-state and advance to state meet

Two wrestling team members remain in postseason, three stopped at semi-state, senior suffers from leg injury

By Logan Johnson
Writer

Conseco Fieldhouse, an arena that is usually home to concerts and basketball games, transforms into a coliseum for one day a year. Friday, February 18, is the day of individual state championships for the Homestead Spartans. As some continue their journey to become gladiators, another had his opportunity stolen.

"It was a snap and I instantly knew something was wrong," Brad Mills (12), a two sport varsity letterman and captain, said.

Mills led the wrestling team all season competing in the 215 pound weight class. Winning his fourth sectional title this year, he headed into practice and began to look towards state. In one quick practice drill, his hopes all ended. Mills, holding the record for most career wins at Homestead, had broken his tibia, an injury that ended his high school career.

"I didn't cry when it happened, I was too shocked," Mills said. "I cried later because I realized my season was over."

Although Mills possibly missed out on what would have been his best season yet, he seemed to have no regrets. Going to state last year, Mills said he was happy he got to experience the competition once and was excited to go down to Indianapolis to watch his teammates compete.

After Mills' injury the rest of the team had to continue onto regionals where Andrew Bowman (12), Kody George (11), Keelan Rushing (12), Josh Kryder (12) and Branden Baker (10) all qualified to move on to semi-state. For some of the boys, the road had been easy, but Kryder had the match of a lifetime at regional.

Kryder headed into the final period of the regional championship match losing 15-9 but with three take-downs he tied the match 15-15, sending it into overtime. A final take-down by Kryder gave him a spectacular win and improved his record to 37-1. Semi-state is the last stop on the road to Conseco. All the boys were confident heading into semi-state.

"I know with a strong, experienced leader like Mills out, the other seniors would have to step it up even more and get the boys pumped for state, but we're ready and we're excited," Rushing said.

They're approaching the beginning of the end. Semi-state includes four separate competitions throughout the state of Indiana that decide who moves on to state, and who packs up and goes home. Of the five qualifiers for semi -state, Homestead will be represented by a select group of athletes consisting of Bowman and George. The top four finishers at semi-state advanced onto to state, and both Bowman and George cut it very close when qualifying.

"I would have liked to finish higher but I knew that I was going on to state and I had some tough competitors in semi-state," Bowman said.

George finished third in the 119 pound division, also moving on to state. Unfortunately, Rushing, Kryder and Baker will not be advancing to the state meet.

State competition is the level that every high school athlete hopes to achieve. After wrestling semi-state, 16 wrestlers remain in each weight class for state.

State is a two day competition starting tomorrow, Friday, February 18 and ends on Saturday, February 19. Friday night, Bowman and George will compete for entry into the medal round, which is one match that eliminates half of the field.

On Saturday, the remaining eight wrestle a full competition slowly placing each seat one through eight. Although neither athlete has ever competed in state, both wrestlers are prepared and excited to wrestle.

"I'm excited to wrestle at Conseco Fieldhouse, I think it'll be cool to wrestle on such a big stage in such a big venue," Bowman said.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN OLSON

Girls' basketball team crowned NHC Conference Champions, finish regular season with 17 wins

By Connor O'Hara
Writer

It has been 12 years, but at last, the girls' basketball team has finally taken hold of the NHC conference championship crown.

The girls took a lead over Dekalb early in the conference championship deciding game, and the margin only increased as the clock winded down. The Lady Spartans were the clear victors in their conference match with Dekalb, and they left no room for doubt.

"I would say the key components that lead us to winning conference was our constant encouragement, team work and intensity," Emily Bley (10) said.

Bley was one of the main driving forces that lead the Spartans to victory, and, in addition to scoring a team-high 16 points, is also one of the youngest players that represents Homestead's varsity squad.

As the final buzzer rang, and the crowd gazed at the scoreboard to see just how badly Homestead had run away with their conference championship, the numbers 56-37 glared back at them. The auditorium flooded with cheers, screeches and chants which undoubtedly left a high pitch ringing in each and every one of the player's ears for a number of days.

"As the game ended, I was thinking 'Oh my gosh, we did it,'" Carmen Lowe (11) said.

The girls performed at a high level, and were so in-tune with each other that they appeared practically unstoppable. When asked what the essential component to their team's victory and first conference championship in over a decade was, the girls responded with one word over and over: teamwork.

Their passes were crisp; their plays were executed with upmost finesse and power. The girls earned this championship, and there's no room for anyone to argue differently.

While winning the NHC Conference title was sweet, winning the sectional championship was icing on the cake for the team's successful season.

Facing regular season rival North Side in the first round, the Spartans cruised through the opening competition, and would beat state-ranked Marion in the second round.

Playing for the first sectional championship in more than a decade, the team was confident in their abilities.

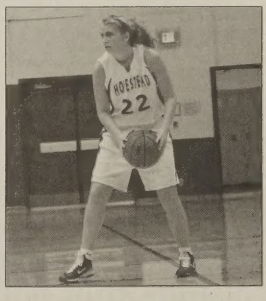
Although the team had twenty turnovers, the team was able to pull out a 48-42 victory over the South Side Archers.

Hamrick, who scored 13 points in the game against Dekalb, has been the star player of the Homestead girls' basketball team since the time she stepped on the court as a freshman. She will be playing basketball for Coastal Carolina University next year.

Unfortunately, the hard thing about the end of any season is the feeling of nostalgia that comes with the thought of knowing some of the people you play with will not be returning the following year.

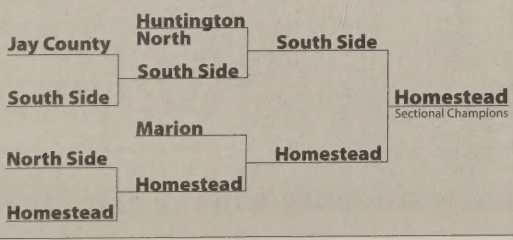
"It's extremely hard because I feel like we have all gotten so close and we go so well together as a team, thinking about the three seniors leaving just flat out stinks," Lowe said.

As the Lady Spartans press on into their postseason, it becomes crystal clear that these girls are playing for more than just a sectional title. They're playing for each other, they're playing for their school, and they're playing to show everyone out there who might have doubted them in the past that they do in fact have what it takes to be one of the top teams in the state.



Top: Whitney Neal (12) tries to grab the rebound. Above: Kelsey Futter (12) looks for a pass.

2011 SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT



Boys' swim team completes regular season, prepares for sectionals

Team recovers from loss at Fishers, strives to fulfill expectation of dominance in postseason

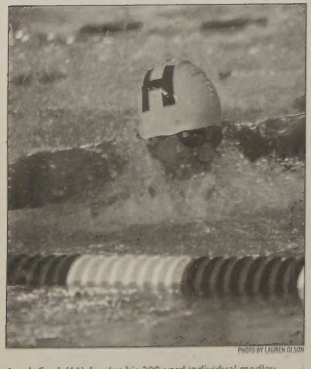


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Jacob Cook (11) begins his 200-yard individual medley.

By Corey Davis
Writer

The annual event of each member of the Homestead boys' swim and dive team bleaching their hair marks the start of the run for yet another state title. Each year, the bleaching of the hair signifies the preparation for another post season venture. Following a difficult seasons, the Spartans have another shot at reaching their goal of winning sectionals, with fierce competition from Carroll High School.

Preceding the end of the regular season, the boys traveled down to Fishers for an overnight meet which resulted in a victory at an invitational, with opponents such as Carroll present. After a disappointing loss to Carroll during the NHC conference championships, this meet was an important meet for the Spartans to prove they could indeed beat the Chargers and spark their journey to state.

"It was nice to beat Carroll at Fishers because it reminded us that we can still beat them," Blake Johnson (12) said. "The team is really pumped for sectionals, and as long as we keep our heads in it and swim how we know we can swim, we should be able to beat them."

The following Saturday, they swam a dual meet with North Central. The back-to-back meets are orchestrated to prepare the team for state competition, which consists of two consecutive days of competition.

Never before have the Spartans won over North Central. Unfortunately, this trend continued at their last confrontation, but the Spartans did manage to obtain the closest point margin ever held. The fatigue of competing in two consecutive meets showed in the Spartans, but the team has since recovered.

As the postseason is now beginning, the boys are striving to extend the trend of dominance established by the Homestead boys' swim team from teams in the past. The sectional meet is drawing near for the swimmers, and the team is refusing to discontinue the winning streak this year.

This year, the boys are trying to win their seventeenth consecutive sectional title. There have also only been seven total state titles under Coach Chad Englehart's guidance of the Homestead swimming program.

Five individual and two relay state victories have been obtained under his coaching. In 2006, the boys' swim team finished as runners-up at the state meet, and hasn't placed as highly since.

While the team would like to assume that the sectional meet is a guaranteed victory, they must perform to their full ability to capture the first place trophy. Carroll, who has already beaten the Spartans once this year, is providing some fierce competition. However, with the depth and power of the Spartans, a victory is not out of the question.

Outstanding performances from the team will not be required of only the team's leaders, but also will be needed from every member of the sectional roster.

"We need a combined effort from the entire team, but the real success comes from the hard work we have put in every day at practices over this entire past year of training," Josh Auger (12) said.

The team plans to capture a victory at sectionals, and hopefully place highly at the state competition. From what history has shown, their goals should be fulfilled.

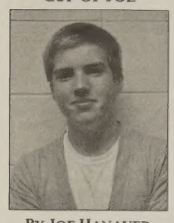
Parent complaints about sportsmanship hinder student section

Congratulations to the boys' varsity basketball team, you've just gone undefeated in the NHC Conference, and currently hold a win percentage over .750. As if this Cinderella story wasn't inspiring enough, you did it without some *Kid* who quit the team earlier this season.

Congratulations to the student section, by the administration's standards, you've completely disgraced yourself, the glorious Homestead name, and you should be downright ashamed to call yourself a fan. Your attire and actions at the game are "outrageous" and the way you wear extreme or unusual clothing detracts from the action in the playing arena is not considered as exemplary sporting behavior.

Wait... that's bad? I was sort of flattered.

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Sports Editor

During last week's announcements, a statement was given explaining how in some recent cases, Homestead's student section has been particularly offensive in the way that we behave ourselves at basketball games.

Standing as an innocent arms-crossed bystander for the past three years, I had plans of changing the mentality of Homestead's student section going into my senior year. From my freshman through junior year, going to a basketball game seemed like more of a social event than a sporting event.

I understand that the majority of the fans weren't dressing up in anything more than street clothes, but as one of the jort-wearing, cutoff-sporting seniors, I suppose I should take some of the responsibility for the creation of the NHC Conference dress code.

Am I the first person to rock Goodwill's winter line to a basketball game? No. While it's something I'll never quite understand, our student section has been notoriously known for doing theme nights since I can remember.

Remember Collin McCracken's ('09) pope costume, "Guido Night", Tom Ault ('10) and Anthony Mullen ('10) wearing Little House on the Prarie-esque dresses, or when all of the senior guys dressed up as Transformers?

Some of the opposing team's robots could've been really offended that night.

Ok, maybe NASCAR night wasn't exactly as tasteful, especially on the night we played Columbia City.

This isn't the first time the student section has done a "redneck" or "country" night. But in all fairness, couldn't nearly every school we play use the "Hey, we're a bunch of farming folk, and we take offense to that" card? Believe it or not, but Indiana is actually known for corn and farming.

Our "lack of sportsmanship" had gone unnoticed from the football season up until the days following the game against Columbia City. A few complaints about how our student section was completely offensive and over the line what we wore shouldn't change a tradition Homestead has always had.

Oh no, don't tell me someone's mother was upset, because that would completely justify taking away a privilege Homestead has had, and enjoyed over the course of multiple seasons.

> "This isn't the first time the student section has done a 'redneck' or 'country' night. But in all fairness, couldn't nearly every school we play use the 'Hey, we're a bunch of farming folk, and we take offense to that' card?"
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Sports Editor*

Everyone seems to be okay with the NHC Dress Code except for the students themselves. The dress code states that "costumes or attire that put down, make fun of or mock a perception related to a competing school or community will not be permitted." Our "costumes" have been approved for years until one particular student crossed the line. Theme nights have been, and are supposed to be fun. The following game at Bellmont, their student section decided to dress up as beggars, and held up signs asking us for money. I'd appreciate it if someone could show me how that doesn't violate the dress code. As much as it seems like another team mocking Homestead's biggest stereotype should bother me, it doesn't.

And you know what? It was funny.

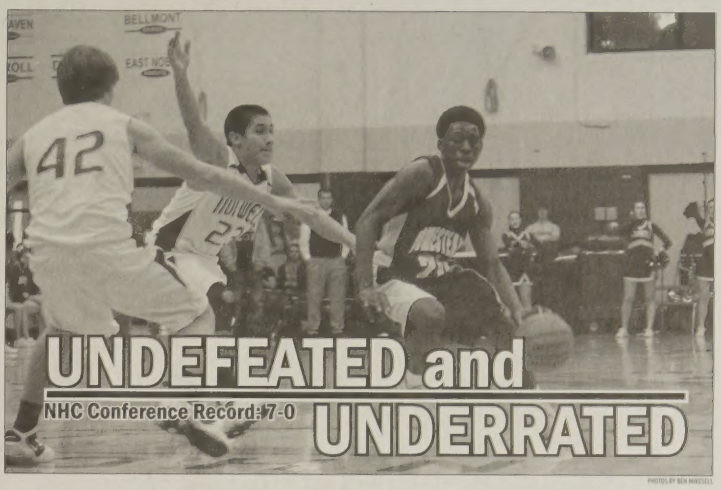
One person's strongly worded email, or poor judgment call in what they wore shouldn't ruin it for the rest of us.

As a fan and one of the unofficial leaders of the student section, I couldn't have asked for a better basketball season. Outside of the team having one of the greatest seasons in Homestead basketball history, getting a front row seat to each game and leading the rollercoaster at the end of every third quarter has made this season much more memorable than the rest. It's just a shame that a few complaints overshadowed the all the fun the student section has had this season.

When I look back on my last season as a member of the student section at Homestead, I'll remember the drives to the away games, I'll remember the "You can't do that!" chants, I'll remember how my ears would ring following the last seconds of each game. For all the fun that I've had this year, it's too bad I'll have to think about "what could have been."

But until the times where I'm remembering instead of cheering, I'll keep a watchful eye over my shoulder, waiting for a new rule to be created.

Tomorrow night is the last home game of the season, you can bet I'll be making the most of it.



PHOTOS BY BEN MARSELL

Boys' basketball team improves to 13-4 record after win at Norwell

BY JACOB COOK
Writer

The boys' basketball team wrapped up an intense game against Norwell last week to win the NHC Conference Championship outright. With a final score of 58-55, it was a hard-fought battle that the team emerged successful from and brought an NHC Championship trophy home.

Going into their game against Norwell, the team had a major confidence-booster in their game against fellow NHC opponent New Haven. A 59-39 home win gave the team the reassurance that they were the best in the conference and propelled them to their victory. Norwell, however, went into the game coming off of a 61-51 loss to Columbia City. The victory, which players referred to as "revenge" after last year, where Norwell beat Homestead to force a tie for the NHC title, made Spartan history. The team had shared an NHC title before and won one, but had never done so with a perfect conference record. Overall, the team's record is 13-4 with a 7-0 conference record.

"It feels great to be a part of Homestead history," Nick Gamble (10) said.

Gamble was part of the end-of-the-game rush that ultimately won the game for the team. Gamble's drive and converted free throw with less than two minutes left in the game gave the team the lead they needed to win the game.

"We worked together, and that's what gave us the win," Gamble said.

For the team's seniors, the win means a lot more than it seems.

"It feels great, honestly, because we've never stopped working hard and it's paying off," Joe Olivieri (12) said.

Olivieri has been one of the team's leading scorers this year, along with being one of the team's starting five. Based on power rankings released by the IHSAA, the team is currently ranked twentieth in the state among class 4A schools.

In the team's last conference game of the year, Norwell would prove to be the team's toughest game of the regular season. The team gained momentum early, hitting five consecutive three-pointers, giving them an early 19-7 lead.

> "It feels great to be a part of Homestead history."
>
> **NICK GAMBLE (10)**
> *Varsity Point Guard*

Lock-down defense has been and scoring behind the three-point line have been major focuses of the team's game plan.

With time winding down, Gamble sank a lay up and the following foul shot to boost the score to 53-50 with 1:18 left to secure the victory.

The team is now eyeing a sectional title to complete their championship season run. Upcoming games against sectional opponents Snider and Northrop will help to give the team the practice and confidence they need going into the sectional tournament.

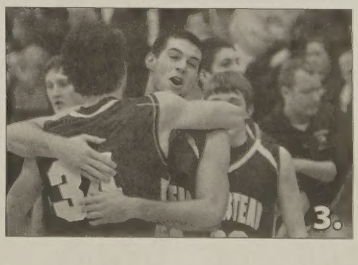
"You can expect an extremely determined Homestead team to take the court during sectionals," Oliveri said.

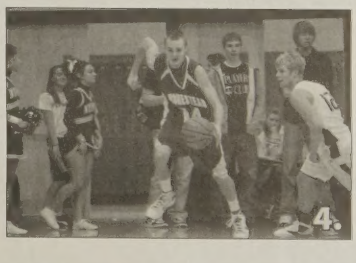
Working harder than ever, the team is looking to close out their season on a high note. While student support has helped to carry the team this year, talent and cohesion have been crucial to the team.

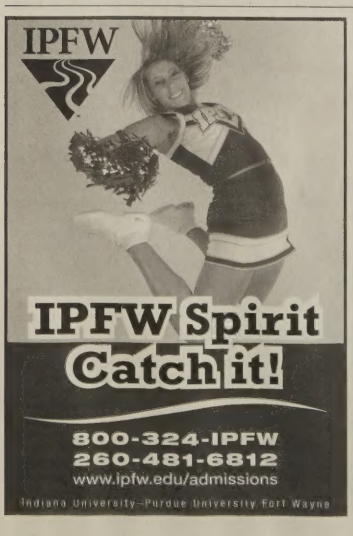
Depth has also helped the team, with a constantly changing starting five and an always dangerous offense. Hoping to take themselves farther than any team before them, the team is setting their minds firmly on a sectional title and possibly more.

"We're going to be pushing as hard as we can," Oliveri said. "Our goals are set on cutting down the nets after the sectional finals game."

Top: Nick Gamble (12) glides past defenders. 1. Joe Olivieri (12) drains a three from the baseline. 2. Evan Rhoades (12) drives down the lane for a lay up. 3. Brad Kopecky (12) celebrates last Thursday night's victory with teammate Garrett Bastin (12). 4. Shooting guard Drew Sery (12) moves the ball upcourt following an inbound pass.







Sydney Brummett (9) takes first at semi-state

Freshman phenom carries girls' team through regular season to postseason

Spartana: What are some of your biggest accomplishments this season?

Brummett: My biggest accomplishments this season for high school would have to be having high average for the state (on the girl's side), winning regionals and semi-state. But outside of high school bowling it would be qualifying for finals in the MJMAs (Michigan Junior Masters Association) and JTBA (Junior Tournament Bowling Association).

Spartana: What interested you in joining the bowling team?

Brummett: My love for bowling got me interested, because any program that I can join to give me more experience in the sport will benefit me.

Spartana: Do you plan on bowling past high school and or in college?

Brummett: Yes, I plan on going to a college that has a bowling program and I would like to eventually join the Pro Bowlers Association.

Spartana: What was the most defining moment of your season?

Brummett: I think it would have to be when I won semi-state. This would be because of the tears that I saw in all of the eyes from the people who were there for me. Winning does not just reflect my career, but my coach's and father's as well.

Spartana: As a freshman, do you feel intimidated bowling against people older than you?

Brummet: No, I do not feel intimidated. I grew up bowling with people older than me. At my national events I usually bowl with 18 or 19 year old girls so nothing really intimidates me any more.

Spartana: What aspect of your game are you going to focus on most in the state meet?

Brummett: Mental. The biggest part of bowling is your mental game. You have to stay focused and stay in your bubble. When a bowler steps up on to the approach they shouldn't hear anything but the thoughts going through their head. As long as I keep my mental game, I should be fine.

Spartana: What's your involvement in the "Junior Gold" program, and what are your chances of becoming a member of the Junior Olympic Team?

Brummett: I have been bowling in Junior Gold for two years now. Although, the first year I almost broke my arm during my last practice session. Last year I almost made day four cut, but I made a few mistakes and lost my edge on day three. Me and others that I compete with believe that my chances of becoming a member of the Junior USA team are good. I've been working hard since the day I got back to learn what made me not get through to day four. Now that I have been doing that, I think as long as my mental game stays in tact and I make good shots, I should have a great chance of making the team.

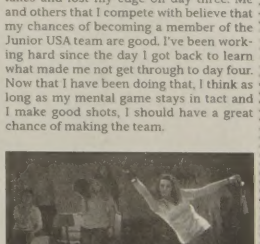


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Brummett placed first at semi-state this year.

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

The girl's swim team accepts their state runner-up trophy from the IHSAA officials and as they prepare for an honorary jump in the pool. This is the highest finish the team has ever accomplished.

STRENGTH in NUMBERS

Lady spartan swimmers achieve state runner-up title by competing in 17 finals swims for total of 230 points

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Associate Sports Editor

Homestead athletes and coaches filled the award podium at Indiana University Natatorium, waiting to take a celebratory plunge into the diving well after the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Championship on Saturday, February 12. Several athletes were overcome with emotion, with tears streaming down their faces as they congratulated each other. Parents and fans watched admiringly, having supported the swimmers every step of the way. The Spartans finally leapt into the water, and the reality of their accomplishment had finally set in. The Spartans had reached their season-long goal at last, for they were the first team to place second in the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Championship from Homestead High School.

"The girls had talked about bringing a trophy home all season," Coach Chad Englehart said. "They were really focused on being in the top two at state."

Contributing to the second place finish in what arguably was the most thrilling event for the Spartans, Tori Bagan (12) made the 100-yard breaststroke a race to remember.

From the moment Bagan entered the water, she took control. Though opponents made attempts to pass her, Bagan remained out in front. When she at last touched the final wall, the scoreboard showed that she had won, and the Homestead fan section exploded. Coaches and teammates congratulated her on the pool deck, and many were overwhelmed with excitement.

"Since I'm a senior, I really wanted to go out with a bang, so I gave [the race] everything I had," Bagan said.

However, Bagan wasn't the only swimmer to perform exceptionally well. From the start of the state competition, the Homestead team had established a dominant presence. Following the sectional meet, Homestead had qualified 11 swimmers for state competition. State competition consists of two sets of races, including preliminary competition and thefinals, which are held on separate days. With great times in the preliminary races of the state competition, the Spartans were able to advance all 11 of their athletes to the finals competition. Between these 11 athletes, Homestead had at least one swimmer in each event during the finals.

Throughout the finals competition, the Spartan athletes were able to shatter seven school records. Bagan established one new record in the 100-yard breaststroke, and another in the 50-yard freestyle. Mariah Hamil (11) set a new school record in the 100-yard freestyle, and Hannah House (9) swam a new record in the 100-yard backstroke. The 200-yard medley relay, 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay all set new school records as well.

By the conclusion of the meet, the Spartans had earned a total of 230 points, separating themselves from third-place Center Grove High School by 30 points. Carmel High School placed first for the twenty-fifth consecutive year, capturing the fourth-longest consecutive state championships of any sport in history.

"We had a great weekend. The girls gave everything they had," Englehart said.

Showing light on future seasons, the team had a strong prevalence of underclassmen competing in the finals. House, Caroline Weigand (9), Whitney Carroll (9) and Reagan Cook (9) all assisted the team stupendously over the weekend. With the help of their experienced teammates, the girls were able to settle their nerves and perform well. The experience the underclassmen gained this weekend will certainly aid them in the future.

"I had no idea what to expect going into the meet, but my teammates really helped me stay focused," Weigand, who placed fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke, said. "It was amazing to be [on the podium], and I just hope to keep getting better."

A meeting was held by the team on the bus after the meet, in which they discussed plans for next year. Though a second place finish was satisfactory this year, it may not be case for the next.

"They talked about a run at the state title in 2010," Englehart said. "This will either remain a dream or the girls will get out of bed and really work to achieve it."

Yet, obviously, there is no lack of work ethic within the Homestead girls' swim team.

The girls sectional and state teams will be recognized for their wins at the boy's basketball game on Friday at 8 p.m.

PHOTOS BY JACOB COOK

Above: Coach Matt Ranochek and Reagan Cook (9) watch as the medley relay prepares to swim.
Bottom Left: Caroline Weigand (9) placed in 5th in the 100 breaststroke where she was recognized for setting a new state record for her age group.
Bottom Right: Emilee Duquette (11), Sarah Lohman (11) and Caroline Weigand (9) jump off of the podium after receiving their second place trophy.
Top Right: As the single senior competitor, Tori Bagan (12) swam a personal best in the 100 breaststroke and received first place. She also swam a 3rd place finish in the 50 free.

BY THE NUMBERS

After a four hour meet on Saturday, the girls swim team accomplished many feats:

1 State title by Tori Bagan in the 100 Breaststroke, swimming the race with a time of 1:01.27

10 Top 8 finalists in the 200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle Relay, 400 Free Relay, 50 Free, 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle, 100 Breaststroke, 100 Butterfly and 100 Backstroke

1 Indiana state record in the 100 Breaststroke by Caroline Weigand for her age group, with a time of 1:03.30

7 Homestead team records broken by the girls during Saturday swims

11 different races were awarded National High School All-American Certificates from the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association

THE COMPETITORS

seniors: Tori Bagan- 200 Medley Relay, 50 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 100 Breaststroke

juniors: Emilee Duquette-100 Freestyle, 400 Freestyle Relay; Mariah Hamil- 200 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay; Courtney Klefeker- 200 Individual Medley, 100 Breaststroke; Sarah Lohman- 200 Medley Relay, 100 Backstroke, 400 Freestyle Relay; Chelsey Reber- 50 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay; Madie Zirzow- 11 1-meter dives

freshmen: Whitney Carroll- 200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle Relay; Reagan Cook- 200 Freestyle, 500 Freestyle; Hanna House- 200 Medley Relay, 100 Butterfly, 100 Backstroke, 400 Freestyle Relay; Caroline Weigand- 200 Individual Medley, 100 Breaststroke

the SPARTANA

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INSIDENOW

NEWS
English Department presents Senior Writer's Showcase: 'Through Our Eye' featuring senior AP Composition students. 2A

LIFE
Social Studies teacher Jon Baker travels to Washington D.C. this summer to participate in program at The Holocaust Museum. 4A

FEATURE
Month of May full of lesser known holidays to celebrate this spring such as Renewal Day and Save Your Hearing Day 8A

OPINION
Ed board discusses whether technology pilot program puts students without access to a laptops at a disadvantage. 3A

SPORTS
Baseball team wins first conference game 7-2 against East Noble. The team is 8-2 in the regular season. 6A

SURPLUS
Artist Kristin Watrous (12) shares his work before graduating to attend the Indiana University to study speech pathology.

Friday, April 31, 2011 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Students, staff mourn loss of two beloved long-time faculty members

Phyllis Nelson, Pat Teagarden remembered after respective struggles against terminal cancer reach end

By Andrew Yde
Copy Editor

The respective struggles of two long-time faculty members against terminal cancer came to an end recently.

Pat Teagarden, a social studies teacher who achieved the role of department head for several years, fought cancer for years before he passed earlier this month. Teagarden also made limitless contributions to Homestead's soccer program as well as to several club soccer programs in the Fort Wayne area.

Teagarden, who taught at Homestead for over 25 years, coached both the boys' and girls' soccer teams for 23 years and was involved with recreational and club soccer programs in the Fort Wayne area for over 35 years. He was recently inducted into the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame for his outstanding soccer contributions both as a coach and as a player.

PAT TEAGARDEN

German teacher Daniel Jaeger, who coached under Teagarden in the assistant position at Homestead for years, remembers Teagarden's commitment and passion for the game of soccer.

"I'm going to miss afternoons watching soccer, talking and drinking tasty beverages [with Pat]," Jaeger said.

Teagarden played many roles throughout his life; in every one, he made waves of friends whom he affected in powerful, ever-lasting ways.

"Pat was both a friend and my mentor," Tom Maher, fellow social studies teacher and current department chair, said. "His greatest strengths were his kindness, his compassion, his encouragement and his patience with students. As department head, he was always known for being very fair, very approachable and very kind to all of us. He was the same as a soccer coach."

Jeff Livensparger, another social studies teacher and long-time coworker and friend of Teagarden's, still remembers when Teagarden allowed him to have his room. Livensparger was in his first year of teaching at that point.

"I had all my stuff on a cart and Mr. Teagarden told me, 'Jeff, you take this room and I'll work something out down the hall,'" Livensparger said. "This is the room that I remember Mr. Teagarden in."

Both Teagarden and Livensparger grew up around the Bishop Luers area of Fort Wayne.

"He loved to make puns, delve into history, and converse with me about where he came from," Livensparger said. "He was a fun, kind, intelligent and jovial man–just jovial. We're going to miss him."

His good deeds at Homestead were brightly accented by his contributions to the students and players to whom he taught history and soccer, respectively.

"Coach Teagarden was a great

SEE 'NELSON,TEAGARDEN,' PAGE 2A

Four students compete at science fair

By Tori Barnard
Writer

Four students competed at the 23rd Annual Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair on April 2 at Ivy Tech in Bloomington. Among those students, Sachin Jain (12), who placed first among high school seniors, was selected as one of 21 representatives from Indiana to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

The International Science fair is held in Los Angeles in May. Jain will compete against over 1,500 students from 65 countries, regions and territories, according to Society for Science and the Public.

"I feel very privileged and honored to be representing my state at the international level," Jain said. "It is a rare opportunity and I'm glad to be going."

International Science Fair

Sachin Jain (12) will be attending the International Science Fair held in Los Angeles, CA May 8-13 because of his qualification at the Hoosier Science

Also competing at the state competition was the team of Jiwon Park (10) and Hanita Epstein (10) and Jay Parekh (10). Prior to the state fair, each participant won first place in their respective categories at the regional level in March. The fairs are divided into middle and high school divisions, and they include 17 different categories. Park and Epstein placed first in Senior Computer Science, Parekh placed first in Senior Environmental Sciences and Jain placed first in Senior Cellular & Molecular Biology at the regional level.

Fair competitors spend the major

SEE 'SCIENCE FAIR,' PAGE 2A

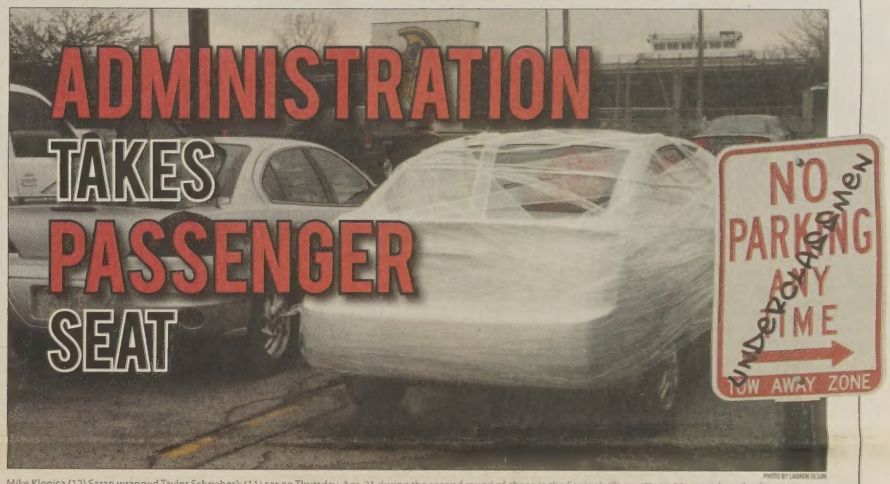


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Mike Klonica (12) Saran wrapped Taylor Schrieber's (11) car on Thursday, Apr. 21 during the second round of chaos in the Senior lot'In an attempt to punish underclassmen.

Senior students take control of punishment distribution to underclassmen

By Joe Laughlin
Associate Sports Editor

Tensions between seniors and underclassmen have escalated as sophomores and juniors continue to park in the senior lot. Recently, the underclassmen that park in the senior lot have been subjected to attacks from seniors, including the defacing of cars with window paint and Saran Wrap.

"We're tired of all the underclassmen taking our spots," Mike Klonica (12), the leader behind the attacks, said. "The administration told us that it was up to us to take care of the issue, so we are doing just that."

While the underclassmen view the seniors' actions as radical, the seniors feel as though their decisions are justified. Moreover, the seniors responsible for the attacks have yet to receive any repercussions from the administration.

"The administration told us that it was up to us to take care of the issue, so we are doing just that."

MIKE KLONICA
Attack Leader

The frustration of the seniors is not completely caused by the actions of the underclassmen. An apparent lack of effort on behalf of the administration to enforce the parking lot regulations has spurred some of the frustration.

Seniors have accused student resource officer Jeremy Tinkel, who is in charge of enforcing parking lot regulations, of neglecting the growing issue in the senior lot. Tinkel does survey the senior lot on occasion. However, Tinkel observes the lot infrequently because other areas of focused are more greatly prioritized.

"I'm not out [in the lots] every day, I simply don't have the time," Tinkel said. "On the list of things that we have to take care of, monitoring the senior lot is not our biggest priority."

If Tinkel catches an underclassman parking in the senior lot, the process of punishing the individual can take up to 40 minutes. To make the punishment of an underclassman more feasible, Tinkel advises seniors to write down the specific license plate and general location of the underclassman caught in the senior lot.

Time management is not the only factor preventing Tinkel from punishing the underclassmen that have been caught parking in the senior lot. When Amanda Arnold (12) presented Tinkel with the car models and locations of underclassmen who had parked in the senior lot, he was unable to punish the individuals because they had

SEE 'SENIOR LOT,' PAGE 2A

Tanner Crandall (12) to attend Butler University on Lilly Grant

By Dan Vandeveer
Copy Editor

Senior year of high school can be a time of uncertainty and stress, a time when students scramble to plan out their future and to receive as many scholarships to their school of choice as possible. One student, Tanner Crandall (12), recently had this burden lifted off his shoulders when he was awarded one of the most prestigious scholarships in Indiana: the Lilly Grant.

"The Lilly Grant has been around for 20 years, and it is sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company," Tom Quigley, guidance counselor, said. "Its primary focus is to keep the best and brightest Indiana students in Indiana by awarding them full-tuition scholarships as long as they go to an Indiana college."

The scholarship is given as part of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, which aims to "raise the level of educational attain

SEE 'LILLY GRANT,' PAGE 2A

PHOTO BY BEN MAESELL

Tanner Crandall (12) was informed he won the grant by two Eli Lilly Foundation representatives during band class on Thursday, Mar. 31 before spring break.

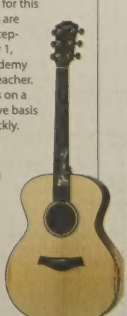
BRIEFS

SAILING SPARTANS
The first annual cardboard boat race will be held Wednesday, May 11. Junior and senior males are invited to form teams of three to compete in the race. Sign-up forms are available in the Back Room during lunch and are due back by Tuesday, May 3.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Student government election applications for the 2011-2012 school year are available in Room 512. Applications are due back to Ms. Miller by Friday, May 13.

SUMMER P.E.
Registration forms for this summer's P.E. class are available in the reception office by Door 1, the Freshmen Academy Office or any P.E. teacher. Class enrollment is on a first come first serve basis and will fill up quickly.

EARTHFEST
Earthfest has been rescheduled and will now be held Thursday, May 26. Bands can turn in entry CDs and applications until Thursday, May 6.



English teacher Jamie Smith awarded honorable 'Teacher of the Year'

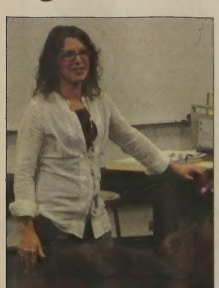


PHOTO BY BEN MAESELL

Annual nomination determined by voting among peers

By Joe Janizek
News Editor

Every year, a teacher nominated by his or her peers is selected as the school's "teacher of the year." This year, the honor went to English teacher Jaime Smith.

"We're looking for quality teachers and quality individuals," Rick Smith, principal, said. "We have a lot of those in the building, so it's really hard to choose one teacher of the year."

The award is designed to recognize teachers who are exceptional in all aspects of teaching.

"The true benefit has simply been the recognition. It is nice to know that someone nominated me and noticed that I try to do my best," Smith said. "Another benefit is that I feel motivated to continue working hard and doing what is best for students."

Smith's students supported their teacher receiving the award and said that her teaching was helpful to them.

"I liked that she taught so everyone could understand," Michael Kitch (10) said. "She moved at a fast pace but didn't let anyone get behind."

Smith credited her year-to-year improvement as a possible reason she was selected as teacher of the year.

"I change my teaching methods every year," Smith said. "I never feel like what I do is really perfected or good enough."

One major change made by Smith this year was a focus on "balanced literacy."

SEE 'SMITH,' PAGE 2A

Jamie Smith teaches her seventh period freshmen English class on Wednesday, Apr. 27. This is Smith's fourth year teaching in the Academy.

NELSON, TEAGARDEN
CONTINUED FROM 1A

coach because he taught me so much about the game of soccer and even more about life," Jack Hagedorn (10), who played for Teagarden on the club level, said. "He influenced so many people throughout his life and is already greatly missed."

Teagarden's life was celebrated on April 16 with a funeral service in the morning, followed by a Mardi Gras celebration to remember his love for trips to Louisiana. Teagarden was dressed in his favorite soccer apparel for his funeral.

PHYLLIS NELSON

Phyllis Nelson, who started as the guidance secretary back in March of 1977 and was later promoted to registrar, passed away due to cancer back in March after a similarly lengthy battle. Before her retirement in December of 2009, Nelson befriended faculty members and impacted their lives in similarly long-lasting and unforgettable ways.

"She was a great lady," Cindy Fitt, Student Service secretary, said. "She had a good sense of humor and was always willing to help in any way possible. I miss her greatly."

> "Pat was both a friend an my mentor. His greatest strengths were his kindness, his compassion, his encouragement and patience with students."
>
> **TOM MAHER**
> *Fellow Social Studies Teacher*

Gloria Junk, current Homestead registrar, who worked with Nelson beginning in 1994, recalls how Nelson taught her to adapt to the registrar position.

"[Nelson] was a great friend of mine when I took on the job," Junk said. "She helped me learn the ropes because I was principal secretary before I worked in the guidance office. She was a great person and will be truly missed."

Beyond school grounds, Phyllis Nelson was highly involved with her family. Friends, co-workers and family members, including grandchildren Ari Nelson (10) and Alexa Nelson (12), attended Nelson's funeral on March 14 to celebrate her life and contributions.

"My grandmother was such a beautiful person and cared so much about her family and friends," Ari Nelson said. "She brought so much joy to the people around her. She will forever be an angel to me and many people that loved her."

Although the means by which both Pat Teagarden and Phyllis Nelson will be remembered are still formulating, one thing is certain: both names will live on in the halls of this high school and in the minds of all those who were touched by their contributions.

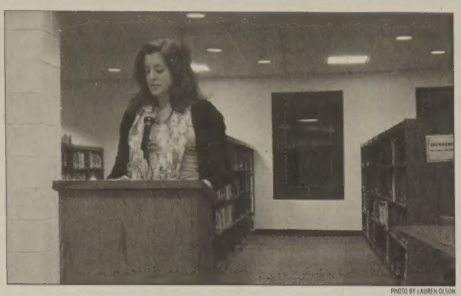


PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Devin Bishop (12) reads a descriptive essay about her street during the winter months.

Senior Writers' Showcase highlights AP Language, Composition students

BY RYAN BOYLAN
Writer

12 senior AP Language and Composition students participated in the third annual Senior Writers' Showcase on Wednesday, Apr. 27. The event was sponsored by the ALPHA Parent Group as a part of Fine Arts Month.

The group of students that participated in the showcase read a series of narrative essays on a variety of topics. While some of the performers have been writing their entire lives, others have only recently discovered their interest in the written word as a result of AP English classes.

"I used to write a lot of novels when I was younger, and after about third grade I completely stopped writing until my junior year in AP Literature when I had a really influential teacher who got me to start writing again," Amanda Arnold (12) said. "Since then I've been writing almost every other day."

While the goal of the entire showcase was to allow readers and listeners to see the world through the eyes of the writers, the sharing writers have their own justifications for writing.

"I would say that I really enjoy putting thoughts on paper and making abstract things and ideas concrete by using words," Keelan Rushing (12) said.

Each year, AP Language and Composition students are also given the opportunity to participate in the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest. Out of more than 1800 contestants this year, five students were awarded the status of Second Round Qualifiers in the contest. Two students also won recognition in the "What's Great About America" Essay contest, in which 7500 writers entered and only 222 were awarded.

"This was really the first time writers have been acknowledged before and been able to display what they've accomplished over past years," Arnold said. "However, my teacher has given me a lot of contest opportunities, which have definitely inspired me considering the prestige of being recognized at a national level."

However, beyond the setting of the classroom, the assignments and papers that students have written have been useful in helping them accomplish more than just making the grade.

"At the beginning of the school year we actually used college application letters as one of our assignments, so it's nice to see that the work we do in class also has an outside application," Rushing said.

SMITH
CONTINUED FROM 1A

"Perhaps my efforts at a 'balanced literacy' approach drew some attention this year," Smith said. "'Balanced literacy' is balancing assigned reading with self-selected reading. I attempted to try something new this year by developing a classroom library and a stronger independent reading unit in conjunction with curriculum reading."

The new library would not have been possible without help from outside organizations, according to Smith.

"I was only able to do this through a grant I received from the Parent Club, so I owe a lot to them," Smith said.

Part of what makes the award so desirable to teachers is the large number of qualified teachers who could win the award.

"As a teacher, you never really get into other teachers' classrooms, so I have no idea what would set me apart. All I know is that I see strong, highly qualified teachers around me every day who dedicate a huge amount of their personal time to help students and to prepare lessons that meet the demands of the state," Smith said. "All of us work very hard. I do not feel that I am set apart from my co-workers in anyway. I feel that I am strong because I have those co-workers around me."

Smith said that not only do her co-workers help strengthen her teaching, but they also help improve the school.

"I feel truly blessed to receive this award because I am so proud to be a part of Homestead High School," Smith said. "This school stands out from other schools because of its dedication to the success of its students. What more could a teacher ask for than to be part of a school with its priorities so firmly established?"

LILY GRANT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

ment in Indiana," according to the Lilly Endowment website.

"The grant definitely affected where I'm going to college next year... [I'm going to] Butler University now," Crandall said. "I still don't know what I want to do, but the Lilly Scholarship has allowed me to go where I want to go."

Crandall was recently awarded this scholarship after undergoing the extensive application process.

"It's a very long process," Quigley said. "The grant is awarded by region, and regional directors specify what qualifications a student must meet."

To qualify for the scholarship, students must have community service participation, academic achievement and financial need. Students also need to have overcome an obstacle to to attain their academic acheivement.

"[This last] qualification is unique to our region. In their essays, students must address these four issues. All of the entries are then reviewed by Homestead's scholarship review board, and two nominees are selected," Quigley said. "Then Lilly goes through all of the nominees from all of the high schools in each region and picks a winner."

Past winners know the significance of the Lilly Grant and how greatly it affected their educational paths.

"The Lilly Grant had a big effect on my son," Don Lines, engineering teacher, said. "Originally he wanted to go to Purdue, but after his visit there, he wasn't happy with it. He had a friend who was going to Bethel, and when he visited, he liked it better. We found out that Bethel would not only pay for tuition and books, but would pay for housing too, while Purdue would not. So he got to go to the school he wanted for less money. He ended up really liking it there, and got a great education for little money."

With the multitude of applicants from the area, Crandall doubted his chances at winning, but he still decided to apply for the scholarship.

"Honestly, I thought I had a minimal chance at winning," Crandall said. "My brother applied last year and got the Homestead nomination, but didn't get the actual Lilly Scholarship. I figured my fate would be the same, but I saw no harm in applying for the scholarship."

The struggle that Crandall overcame goes hand-in-hand with his financial need.

"Money never used to be an issue in my family because both my parents were able to hold good jobs," Crandall said. "But one day in eighth grade, [my parents] both came home on the same day fired from their jobs. From there, tensions rose in my house, money was always tight, and my quality of life went down. I was sure to maintain my academic success to counter this, knowing it would pay off in the future, and that's what my Lilly essay was about."

In addition to community service, Crandall's scholastic aptitude also shines through, as his teachers attest.

"Tanner is outstanding in every way," T.J. McCombs, math department chair and one of Crandall's teachers, said. "Tanner is intelligent, intellectually curious and makes connections between theory and application easily. He has perseverance no matter how difficult the research or assignment. He is hard-working everyday, cooperative when working with peers or adults, organized, humble, positive, well-liked and funny, too. He's involved in many activities related to the school [such as] band and athletics... very few students have all of these attributes."

SENIOR LOT
CONTINUED FROM 1A

senior lot parking passes. If underclassmen do possess senior lot parking passes, they are allowed to park in the senior lot, as Tinkel confirmed.

If a sophomore or a junior is caught parking in the senior lot without a senior lot pass, the punishment of the underclassman is currently a one-and-done policy. After the initial offense, an underclassman is issued a warning ticket. If the same individual is caught parking in the senior lot again, the car will be towed at the owner's expense.

The issue of underclassmen parking in the senior lot has pressured the administration to find a solution. Prior to this school year, the numbered spots in the senior lot were removed to reduce the amount of problems in the senior lot.

Observing the chaos that has resulted from this decision, the underclassmen favor a return to the assigned parking spaces for next year. With assigned parking spaces, the individual who has parked in the wrong place is inevitably held accountable for his or her actions.

"I think going back to the assigned parking spaces for seniors would be better, because no one could park in the wrong spot without someone else noticing," Courtney Klefeker (11) said.

Although the administration discussed eliminating the senior lot last year, no actions to do so have materialized yet.

"My preference is to make [the senior lot] general parking, because that's the easiest solution," Tinkel said. "The administration had discussed it previously, but there has been no further discussion since."

As the conflict continues, a resolution is still unclear. While the administration is working to devise a solution to the issue, the seniors do not plan to end the attacks on the underclassmen who continue to park in the senior lot.

SCIENCE FAIR
CONTINUED FROM 1A

ity of time working on their projects outside of school and receive guidance from a mentor of their choice. The mentor may be a professor or a person that works in the field of the student's topic. Jain conducted the majority of his project and research over the summer. He spent eight hours a day, five days per week for eight weeks for a total of about 300 hours, working with his mentor Dr. James L. Wittliff at the University of Louisville.

"It's more important for students to participate in the science fair because of the experience they gain in preparation for the fair through their research than the experience they gain presenting in the fair," Mark Lenfestey, science department chair, said. "Participation in the fair also looks great on college applications."

Students are able to research the applications for science in their chosen project field.

"One positive of participating in the science fair was that I gained real life applications of computer science," Park said.

In addition to the research experience, participation in the science fair provides ample opportunity for participants to earn scholarships. Over twenty awards and scholarships were received by these participants at the regional level alone.

Furthermore, the science fair gives students the opportunity not only to develop and hone their knowledge on their selected topic, but to become more involved a subject about which they are passionate.

"I've always had a thing for science, so I thought it would be interesting to work next to a really good friend of mine and make it as far as we could in the competition," Epstein said.

Through participation in the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair, students were able to connect with other students who share their passions for science.

"The state competition was fun and gave me the opportunity to meet new people and look at what other kinds of research students were doing," Jain said.

Though there is no class specifically for working on science projects, students can take Science Research Independent Study their junior or senior year, during which they are able to devote school hours to working on a science fair project while receiving advice from a teacher.

▸▸300
Hours approximately went into Sachin Jain's project.

"This year's participants were all great students," Lenfestey said. "They were successful at the fairs because of their hard work and their outstanding projects."

the SPARTANA

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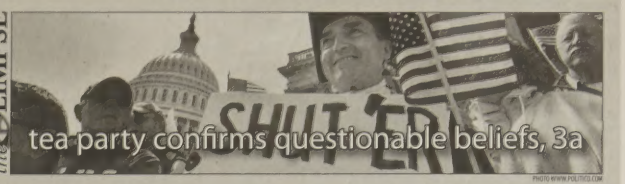
OPINION



Starbucks boasts achieved guidelines, hides dark truths from consumers

Coffee and Farmer Equality group approves safe working conditions for coffee farmers around the globe

By Claire Pranger
Writer

There was a time in the last century when American children were forced to work twelve, sometimes fourteen, hours a day, simply to get food for their families. Over time, Americans grew wise of the unlawful and unjust transgressions they committed so that the greedy, then newly-formed industry could thrive. Now, laws are in place so that such an offense can never again occur. So why is it that American officials can sleep soundly knowing that they are still willingly supporting child labor in other countries?

Guatemala is one such offender that still participates in child labor. While the U.S. government does not condone such activities, the Department of State acknowledged the existence of forced labor on coffee plantations in Guatemala in 2010.

Guatemala is a major Latin American exporter of coffee and lists among its clientele none other than the American-based conglomerate Starbucks. Starbucks boasts that, as of 2010, 84% of the 269 million pounds of coffee beans the company buys is approved by C.A.F.E. (Coffee and Farmer Equity) practices, a comprehensive set of standards meant to make Starbucks' farming practices better for people and the planet.

Though the guidelines for C.A.F.E. are aimed at ensuring the quality of both the product and the legitimacy of the business or plantation from which it came, they do not, however, account for the other 16% (43 million pounds) that Starbucks buys.

Of all the coffee that Starbucks bought last year, much of it came from Latin America to provide beans for the numerous Latin American blends that they offer, two Guatemalan varieties among them.

America is one of the largest importers of coffee in the world, and only 3.3% of the coffee that America buys is Fair Trade. By contributing to the Starbucks Corporation, Americans are in fact contributing to child labor.

The use of unhealthy products and the snubbing of workers rights is not something that is alien to America, for it is the unfortunate story of the many massive corporations that have come to power in America.

It has taken generations of activists to turn McDonald's around. But that doesn't mean we have to let it happen with Starbucks. Should we, not only as students, but as responsible young adults soon to take the reigns of leadership in this country, allow ourselves to be contributing to this disgrace of humanity?

The movement to change the world begins with everyday people.

If the American citizenry can speak out against child labor around the world, then perhaps Starbucks will listen and buy only Fair Trade certified and growth hormone free products, encouraging farmers and businesses around the world to practice environmentally and morally-sound growing techniques.

Americans cannot be satisfied until the entire world is participating in the betterment of mankind through responsible business practices.

▸▸84
percent of the 269 million pounds of coffee beans that Starbucks buys is approved by C.A.F.E.

Obama puts down Defense of Marriage Act, Boehner opposes

By Colton Shaffer
Writer

Legislation that infringes on the rights and happiness of approximately four million American citizens was passed in 1996. Section 3 of this legislation, The Defense of Marriage Act, defines marriage as a "union between one man and one woman," and successfully sweeps many devoted couples under the rug. In February, President Obama, who has been "wrestling" with his opinion of gay marriage for quite a while, shockingly asked his Justice Department to stop defending Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, believing it to be unconstitutional.

The country has recently exploded with controversy over President Obama's power to make this decision, not counting the opinions expressed by people with anti-gay prejudices.

Many citizens argue that it is not the President's decision as to which pieces of legislation to defend and which ones to not defend. What these prematurely outraged individuals fail to realize is that just because the President admirably decided to not defend a clearly unconstitutional law doesn't mean that gay couples everywhere will be finally tying the knot.

On March 4, Speaker of the House John Boehner announced that the House of Representatives has every right to take action and will take steps to defend Section 3 in place of President Obama's administration. While many people may breathe a sigh of relief, they once again react prematurely.

Here, conflict exists in the form of attorney for the defense of DOMA, Paul Clement, who signed a contract on April 14 stating that he would be paid $520 an hour of taxpayer money with a cap of $500,000 total to defend the law.

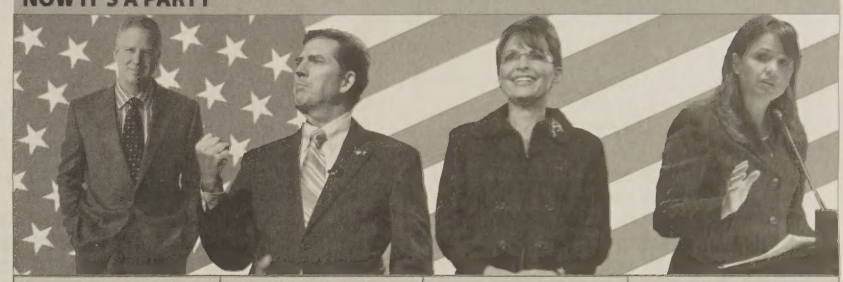
With all things considered, including America's 9.2% unemployment rate, it seems logical that the country has a much more urgent need for $500,000 to be spent elsewhere, rather than funding the violation of the Equal Protection component of the Fifth Amendment.

Though it's excellent that the Obama Administration is finally breaking away from its defense of DOMA, it's not time for the LGBT community to break out the bubbly stuff. DOMA is still going to be fiercely defended, and is far from being repealed.

With a GOP majority in the House and a very slim Democratic majority in the Senate, a bipartisan majority would be needed to send DOMA packing. The likelihood of that occurrence is unfortunately slim to none.

Despite the objections of many, President Obama deserves to be applauded for his decision, not scolded. Regrettably, DOMA will not be completely repealed due to his decision. The House of Representatives will continue to make its opinions heard regarding the issue, but President Obama's decision is, for now, a step in the right direction.

NOW IT'S A PARTY



Glenn Beck
"This president I think has exposed himself over and over again as a guy who has a deep-seated hatred for white people or the white culture... I'm not saying he doesn't like white people, I'm saying he has a problem. This guy is, I believe, a racist."

Jim Demint
"We will break him [President Obama]."
• Author of *Saving Freedom: We Can Stop America's Slide into Socialism.*
• Ranked by *The National Journal* as most conservative member of the Senate.

Sarah Palin
"We have a President, perhaps for the very first time since the founding of our republic, who doesn't appear to believe that America is the greatest earthly force for good the world has ever known."

Christine O'Donnell
"He's so liberal. He's anti-American. He's beating the 'change' drum. But let's look at the change. He did not vote for English as the official language. What does that say?"
• Not a wicken.

Republican Tea Party main culprit in potential government shutdown

By Adrienne Westenfeld
Opinion Editor

Politicians sympathizing with both sides of the aisle willingly admit that, at times, the Tea Party seems more like a hit parade of sketch comedy fodder than a credible political organization; examples of the movement's entertaining membership include perennial favorites such as Sarah "I can see Russia from my house" Palin, Christine "I am not a witch" O'Donnell and the astonishingly numerous bands of charlatans who continue to debate President Obama's birthplace despite the threat of far more pressing circumstances. Yet, evidenced more than ever by the narrowly-avoided government shutdown, the Tea Party, characterized as it is by fringe extremism and bombastic ignorance, somehow continues to hold the federal government hostage and masquerade as the face of the Republican Party. Isn't it high time that Republicans stop taking the backseat to their loudmouthed cousins and that Democrats stop listening?

When the government budget was in heated negotiations over three weeks ago, Speaker of the House John Boehner threatened a government shutdown due to Republican ire surrounding the continued funding of Planned Parenthood, claiming that the federal government should not subsidize the abortions provided by Planned Parenthood. Perhaps Boehner should have done his homework before threatening to bring the federal government crashing to its knees: according to Planned Parenthood's website, abortion servicesonly account for 3% of the services provided by the organization, with the other 97% comprised of contraception distribution, STD treatment and cancer screening.

> "Where voters gave the Tea Party an inch, they have taken a mile."
>
> **ADRIENNE WESTENFELD**
> *Opinion Editor*

Had Boehner followed through on his threat, over 800,000 federal employees would have been laid off, paycheck delivery to members of the military would have been indefinitely delayed, student loans would have been suspended for the foreseeable future, and Medicare and Medicaid would have been denied to millions of disadvantaged citizens, all for the pursuit of a fringe social agenda.

How can the Republican Party, consumed as it is by the Tea Party agenda, be considered a rational voice in government when it would bring life as American citizens know it to a screeching halt in the futile pursuit of its ideological social agenda? Tea Party candidates were elected to office because swing voters were frustrated about the economy, not because they wanted social legislation regarding family planning. Where voters gave the Tea Party an inch, they have taken a mile.

Republicans are enjoying the limelight for the time being in that Tea Party candidates pander to the frustration of moderates and Republicans, but their influence won't last – when circumstances give way long enough for the Tea Party's reactionary nature and backwater social values to be exposed, the steering wheel will be taken from billionaire Tea Party oligarchs such as Donald Trump and handed back to the middle-class Americans that they allegedly represent.

Under the mask of crusading for the common American, there exists nothing but a profundity of ignorance, and that cannot stay hidden from over 300 million Americans for long.

Despite the fact that the Tea Party has emerged as an influential force in American politics and a center of gravity within the Republican Party, its emergence comes at a steep price, namely the sacrifice of modern republicanism's credibility.

The Republican Party was once the party of Wall Street and big business, but since the inception of the Tea Party and its adoption into Republican political canon, it has become the party of Puritanical social values in which the vocal few prattle so loudly and so embarrassingly that the many are effectively silenced.

In letting Tea Partiers become the face of modern Republicanism, Republicans have truly permitted the inmates to run the asylum.

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Dan Vandeveer attempts to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What was your most awkward family experience over the Easter weekend?"

Hillary Kartman ▸▸ "When my cousins got Easter baskets with over $20 worth of things from my grandparents, and I got a whole $5 from them"
Madie Zirzow ▸▸ "I was dared to eat a brussel sprout for $10, and it was so disgusting I almost puked it back up, in front of everyone."
Ben Gillette ▸▸ "Going Easter egg hunting with my 7 year old cousins... and liking it."
Kelsey Wendlandt ▸▸ "All of my little cousins were over, and my parents made my little sister, my older brother and I hunt for Easter eggs with the little kids, in the front yard... where all the cars drive by."
Peter Ali ▸▸ "My grandmother called. She forgot who my sister was. Then she sang her Happy Birthday to make up for it."
Avery Collins ▸▸ "Telling my mom what time I got home the night before, and why."
Molly Quinn ▸▸ "When the topic somehow turned to colonoscopies at the dinner table... slightly awkward."

Technology program favors privileged students

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The new technology pilot curriculum has proven extremely popular with the majority of student participants; however, its fairness relative to students lacking the financial means to fully participate remains indefinite. In fact, the program raises several questions concerning equal access to technology and overall fairness. Should students who do not have the financial means to sport a laptop or smart phone be hindered academically due to their limited financial means?

One program shortfall is laptops and smart phones are not provided by the school. Students are however, permitted to utilize their own devices. While this may create an uneven playing field between the "haves" and "have-nots," the school should not be required to provide this equipment and likewise should not discontinue the program simply because they cannot provide technology for every student. While it is unfortunate those who do not own laptops and smart phones may be disadvantaged, students fortunate enough to have access to such technology should not be limited in their academic experiences.

Classrooms should be forums for educational growth, not financial competition. Shouldn't students who have invested money in expensive technology be afforded opportunities to utilize their equipment to its fullest capacity? Not only does access to technology open windows to educational tools and informational media, the opportunity to utilize technology in an academic setting increases the return on an expensive investment. The expansive resources and real-world applications available via technology are not only academic assets, but will also better prepare students for future educational pursuits and careers.

Those students fortunate enough to have access to technology should be permitted to use it in the classroom; however, the school should make a concerted effort to close the existing gap between students with and without technology access. For example, for students on free and reduced-lunch programs, perhaps the school could generate funds to purchase some laptops and either discount the price of laptops or rent them for a nominal fee to such students. Or, as another alternative, during the technology pilot period, school laptop carts could be accessed by teachers for their students' use.

Bridging the gap between those with access to technology and those without such access should be a school priority; however, in the meantime, students who have access to such devices should be permitted to use them. The impact of equal access to learning tools and general fairness are legitimate concerns; however, in addressing these issues it is important to remain focused on how best to achieve a quality education for all.

{The Bottom Line} Students that don't have the ideal technology should receive same technological privileges as everyone else.

LIFESTYLE

the GLIMPSE

Luke Labas (10), 5a

PHOTO COURTESY JAN LABAS

Extemporaneous speech skills necessary for success in competitions

Speech, Debate Teams finish out season with high win rate, keeping members coming back

By Kirsten Overdahl
Copy Editor

That do Lincoln Douglas, Congress, Policy, Public Forum and Speech all have in common? Each is a component of the NFL – not football, but the National Forensics League. These areas of competition are better known by Homestead students as the components of the Speech and Debate Team.

Although this year's Speech and Debate season came to an end shortly before Spring Break, the team is almost a year-round activity.

"We start with recruitment early in the year, with our first fill meeting for the debate team shortly after Labor Day," Travis Fisher, English teacher and team advisor, said. "After about a month of debate preparations, the debate team will begin attending Saturday tournaments in October with the season ending in February. The speech team begins and ends its season about a month after the debate team."

Although the team name indicates a single team, the Speech and Debate team essentially operates through two separate components that rarely attend the same event. However, both components emphasize current events, research skills and public speaking abilities. Team members hone these skills at practices and meetings. Speech members address and discuss current event issues to prepare for current event speeches. Debate members, meanwhile, prepare for any of the debate areas offered by Indiana Debate – Congress, Lincoln Douglas, Policy and Public Forum – and meet on different days of the week according to their debate events.

"Public Forum has one topic per month, so we spend most of our practice time discussing what arguments we have run into at previous meets and how we can counter them in the future," Clayton Knappenberger (12), President of the Speech and Debate team, said. "At Congress meetings ... we often try to map out the consequences of passing a specific piece of legislation that has been proposed for debate at the next meet."

Both teams partake in events that rely heavily on well-developed research skills. Speech members draw a current event and have a limited amount of time to research the event and prepare to speak about it.

"I give eight speeches, each of about five minutes. Four of these speeches are on current event topics I draw and research for 30 minutes prior to the speech," Neil Rajdev (12), Speech Team Captain, said.

In addition to research skills, both teams focus on "extemp speaking," or extemporaneous speech. Most events for both teams qualify as extemporaneous events, requiring team members to think, analyze and articulate quickly.

"We have to collect dues, fees and forms at the beginning of the year, and then we have to register for each tournament. If the tournament requires an overnight stay, we need to find hotel rooms and arrange transportation," Fisher said. "[I also] supervise recruitment, select officers and oversee fundraising activities such as this year's Faculty Night Live variety show."

Fisher is proud of the successes the teams accomplish.

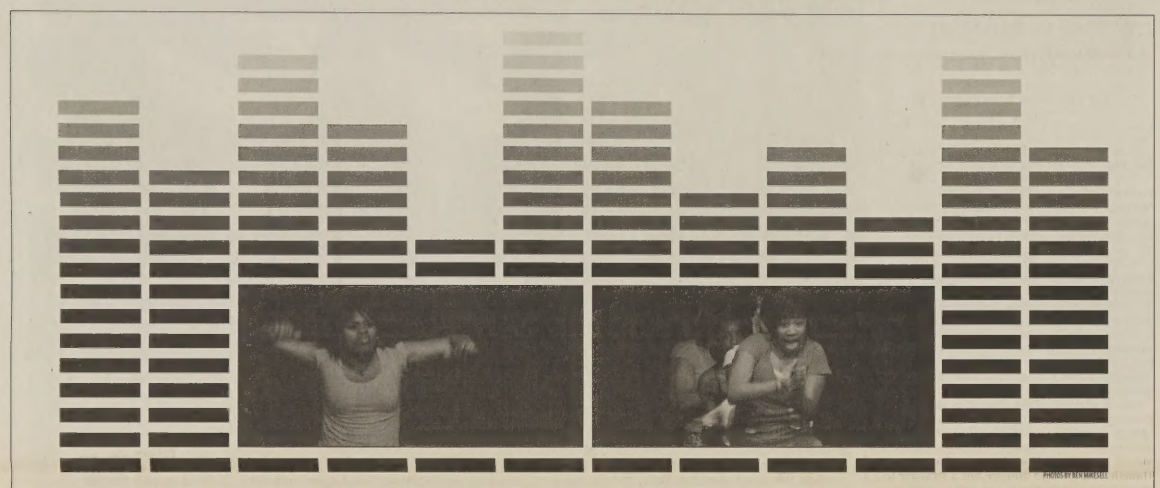
"I think our biggest success this year was our debate team taking first place at a tournament," Fisher said. "I very much like seeing the progress students make from their freshman year through their senior year."

The success and camaraderie of the teams keep members eagerly coming back. Rajdev reflects fondly on his Speech team experiences.

"I enjoyed the success I had as an extemp speaker, and I liked spending time with friends and speaking on topics important to the world," Rajdev said.

Knappenberger values both the intellectual skills his Debate team tenure has sharpened and the friendships it has fostered.

"I've met a lot of people from all over the state, and in competing, I've learned a lot from the people I've debated against," Knappenberger said.



PHOTOS BY BEN MARSHALL

Left: Shannon Williams (10) gets the crowd going while breaking down a solo dance during the Variety Show. Right: Sambria Graham (11) leads the rest of the step crew to begin the routine. The crew's routines are a combination of ideas from all of the members that are brought together during practiced and made up on the spot. The team practices both in members homes and teachers' classrooms.

STEPPING TO THE BEAT

Step team looks forward to gaining new members, competing in future showcases

By Rachel Shinn
Writer

While Homestead doesn't award varsity letters to the members of its Step Team, this does not mean that they do not practice hard. However, finding students with outstanding stepping skills is not as important as finding students who need the team as much as it needs them.

The five members of Homestead's Step Team are Shannon Williams (10), Sambria Graham (11), Arnetia Walker (11), Donya Brown (12) and Jasmin Gamble (11). Already a previously existing group, Graham stated that they took it over from Chardaya Briggs when she graduated from Homestead.

"We just wanted to keep it going since she worked so hard to start it," Graham (11) said.

Walker began stepping a few years ago, but other members on the team have been stepping for a longer period of time.

"I started when I was younger in about 5th grade, so I've been stepping for a long time," Graham said. "My mom did it in college."

Similar to Graham's family connections in stepping, Walker has some of her own.

"My sister actually steps too, so it's like a family thing," Walker said.

Both Walker and Graham stated that Stepping is something they would like to continue when they go to college. For a few members, however, this isn't their first time on a crew.

"When I was younger I did African dancing and cheerleading," Graham said. "I also was on another crew before this one."

Just like many other sports, practice can only help, but the possession of talent is what allows the participants of stepping to excel.

"For me, stepping comes naturally, just like a rhythmic thing," Walker (11) said.

> "To come up with our routines we usually just have people bring a step they know with them to practice. We come up with it on the spot."
>
> **ARNETIA WALKER (11)**
> *Step Crew Member*

Tracing its roots back to Africa, stepping is a mix of stomping, dancing, singing and clapping that was first popularized in the 1960s by fraternities and sororities at historically black colleges. Since that time, it has moved into high schools and middle schools throughout the country.

"To come up with our routines we usually just have people bring a step they know with them to practice," Walker said. "We come up with it on the spot."

Step Team Showcases and 'Step-Offs' are becoming more and more popular as the activity gains recognition. Movies like Stomp the Yard, Drumline and School Daze were filmed and produced, aiding in the popularization of stepping. In January of last year, MTV2 premiered a six-episode documentary that followed six step teams as they prepared for the "Sprite Step Off," the largest step competition ever held that offered over $1.5 million in scholarships and was hosted by rapper and actor Chris "Ludacris" Bridges.

"If we had a sponsor and more members on our team, we would definitely compete in showcases," Walker (11) said.

Aside from having to practice and perform, stepping has many other attracting qualities to it.

"It's fun and it gives us a time to bond," Graham said.

Walker agreed with Graham, adding that it gave them time to all be unique and bond with one another as a team rather than just as friends.

The team often practices in the homes of its members, in addition to in teachers' rooms after school on occasion. It is such practices that make the steppers flawless in their performances in front of audiences.

"Remembering the steps gets nerve-racking for performances, but, once you get up on stage, it all goes away and it's just fun," Graham said.

One of the group's main performances was at this year's Variety Show in March. With positive reactions, it is likely that they'll return next year.

"All of their personalities were very vibrant on stage, especially the lead stepper," Morgan Sheehan (12) said. "It was all really entertaining."

The practice and passion for stepping makes the art form as infectious as it is entertaining.

Holocaust museum provides unique opportunity for educators

History teacher Jon Baker anticipates five-day Teacher Fellowship Program in capital

By Kevin Kusisto
Writer

For the past 14 years, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Teacher Fellowship Program has offered an opportunity for skilled and devoted educators to learn various ways of teaching students about the holocaust. This year, Jon Baker, history teacher, has been selected as one of only 15 teachers to receive the honor of attending the fellowship program. In July, he will join the other teachers for a five-day summer trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"It's a program designed to educate teachers about the Holocaust," Baker said. "They pick about twelve to fifteen teachers a year. There is a week-long introductory training session in the summer in Washington D.C. The next summer, [the teachers involved] reconvene to discuss how to further educate students and other teachers about the Holocaust."

The training received will help the Fellowship members educate not only their students, but also other teachers and community members concerned with the history of the Holocaust.

Not all of the teachers that were selected for the fellowship program are from the Midwest, let alone the United States. This year, the program has selected two educators from Germany to attend the 2011 gathering.

"[The fellowship program members] this year are from everywhere," Baker said. "They're not all history teachers either. They teach, or have taught, a variety of subjects, from English to Theology."

Since its creation in 1996, the Teacher Fellowship Program has gathered attendees every year. However, with such an elite group of people included each year, the overall number of educators who have attended the program is quite minimal.

"About 250 people have been involved in 14 years," Baker said. "So it's a small group, which is why teaching others what you've learned is so important. The total number of people influenced by the program can therefore be assumed as much higher than simply the 250 directly involved."

Baker's involvement in the program began when he was taking a class at a Holocaust conference in Washington, D.C. last year, and was told about an additional program that one could apply for. About a month and a half ago, he applied for the program.

"I didn't expect to be chosen," Baker said. "There are some things that you apply for that not many people apply for, so you think, 'I might get in.' But this program, I've heard, is a top-notch group, so I'm excited, but I'm also nervous about it. I've been reading up a lot on the Holocaust, so I think I should be okay. From what I hear, I will be in training sessions from 9 AM until 7 PM. During that time, there will be guest lectures, visits from holocaust survivors and professors and all other kinds of things. It will be great."

After hearing that he was accepted to the fellowship program, many of Baker's students had positive things to say about his induction into such an elite group of educators.

"I'm not surprised Mr. Baker was chosen," Andrew England (10), a current student of Baker, said. "He's really dedicated and a great teacher."

Others agree with this opinion and express their eagerness to hear about the program.

"Mr. Baker is a fantastic teacher and I'm glad he has received this honor," said Josh Mattes (10). "I'm really excited for him to share what he learned after he comes back."

Baker plans to use what he will be taught at the Teacher Fellowship Program conference to educate students, raise awareness of the Holocaust and possibly even incorporate what he has learned into a lesson plan.

"I don't think a lot of kids today have a lot of background on the Holocaust," Baker said. "I want to work with middle school students especially to try to change that."

▶▶14

The number of years the United States Holocaust Museum has offered the Teacher Fellowship Program

The woes of a teenager's job

Last fall, I was sitting in advisory while Doc was dispensing life advice to his advisees. He told us we all needed to go out and get a bad job that we hated. Now, why I decided that this was good advice, I'm not sure-- but later that week I filled out an application to work at the tanning salon.

To my surprise, I got a call for an interview. With some fake tan on my face and wearing my only blazer, I landed the job. It wasn't my first job; I've lifeguarded the past two summers. However, I soon found out that watching children play in the pool while getting a tan isn't the same as working at a tanning salon. Training started immediately.

Fast forward to last month. Four months of work had officially worn off any shine my new job had once possessed. Coupled with the loss of novelty was the onset of the tanning industry's busiest season-- the month before spring break.

Anyone whose gone tanning before spring break knows the lobby of the salon is absolutely packed, but curiously, no one seems to understand why they would be put on a 20 minute wait for a bed. On the Sunday before spring break, a goodfriend asked me when the best time to go to the salon in the afternoon was. I asked her when the best time to go to Outback on a Friday night was. She got it; there isn't one.

ABITCARRIEDAWAY

BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY
Executive Editor

So after my schedule began to regularly jump above 35 hours a week, my nights became late as I slaved away doing homework, and my social life had not seen a night out since winter break. I decided to jump ship at the tanning salon, and put in my two weeks for the first time.

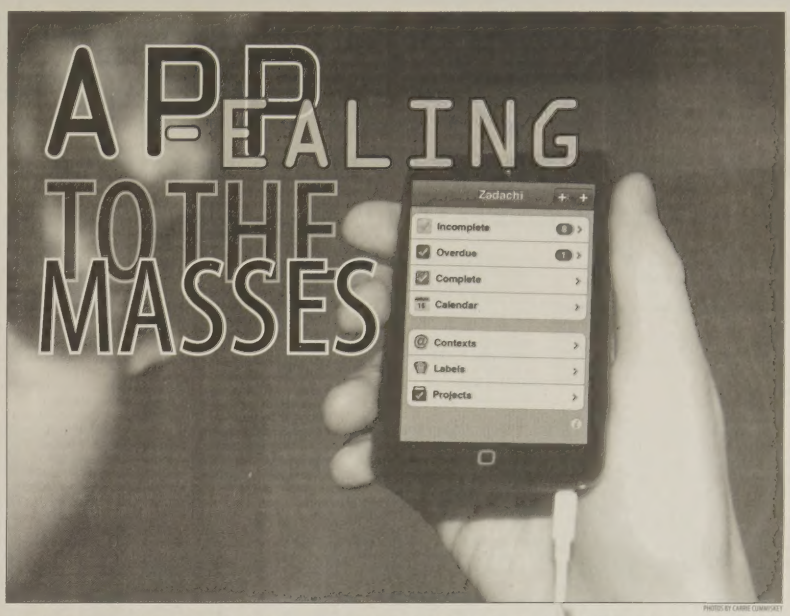
In that four months of work, I came across some situations that I never would have expected.

When people cannot be seen, they have very little shame. After clients tanned, it was part of my job to sanitize the bed. As one might guess, tanning beds get hot, and people who are hot, sweat. What I wouldn't have guessed is that people feel it is perfectly acceptable to ignore the sweat rag we provide and leave oceans of sweat on the bed. Though I had to sanitize the bed regardless of its sweat status, it would be nice if I could have at least pretended I wasn't sloshing around the perspiration from the back side of a stranger. If you're a regular sweater, though, rest assured you are not a stranger to the tanning salon employees. I knew you by name and played "nose goes" with my co-workers for who had to clean your bed.

We also were required to clean out the small trash cans in each of the rooms after every customer had left. I'm not sure if we can print such a detailed account of the bodily fluids, and, in one instance, solid, that people would occasionally leave in the trash cans.

Through I look back and lament about the situations that drove me crazy, I did discover one aspect of my job that I surprisingly enjoyed-- though they are crazy, I love being with people. The same customers that would occasionally drive me up the wall are the ones who got me through working an eight hour shift. The small interactions with them, though short and superficial, often turned the fake smile on my face into a real one. As I got more acquainted with how the tanning salon worked, I began to jump at the chance to talk to a new client or show someone a new bed, only because it was an excuse to talk to someone for five minutes.

So as I go to college, I'm hoping to land myself into a program where I can eventually work with people without having to wipe the perspiration from their rear end of a Plexiglas sheet. Until then, I'll focus my school years on school, and spend my summers poolside, telling children not to run.



PHOTOS BY CARRIE CUMMISKEY

Colin Chivers (10) wrote an iPod application, Zadachi, that helps people organize their lives. Zadachi sells on iTunes for $2.99. Chivers will make a similar iPad app.

Colin Chivers (10) writes iPod organizational tool to sell on iTunes

The release of the next popular Apple application to succeed Angry Birds and Fruit Ninja might be long pending, but Colin Chivers (10) seems to already have a head start with his newly designed and more conventionally applicable application, Zadachi. Chivers recently manufactured Zadachi and sold it to Apple to be included in the iPod touch. The application has been accumulating interest and Chivers hopes to create and sell more applications in the future.

Spartana: What is Zadachi?

Chivers: Zadachi is the best to-do manager ever. It's an application that helps you manage and organize your tasks.

Spartana: What are some features of the application?

Chivers: You can add due dates and tasks and it will tell you when things are overdue. You have reminders so it will tell you a week before, a day before, an hour before it's due. You can have repeating tasks so that once you complete it, [Zadachi] will automatically reset for a week or a month after. You can also have priorities, so you can make certain tasks less important. There are projects that glue tasks together and there's also a calendar view, so you can see all your tasks on a calendar.

Spartana: How much does your application cost?

Chivers: It sells for $2.99. It's had 20 downloads as of yesterday and has been downloaded in Germany, France, Spain, Belgium and Sweden thus far.

Spartana: What is the process that you have to undergo fin order to create an application like Zadachi?

Chivers: Well, you have to have a Mac, and then you download [a program] from Apple. They have a bunch of things online about how to do the programming, and it's written in a language called Objective C, which is just a computer programming language that Apple uses. Then you download the software development kit and type in the code for the program. After that you debug it, put it on your iPod and test it.

Spartana: Why did you decide to create Zadachi?

Chivers: I had tried several other to-do apps and they were either really bloated with features or they didn't have enough [features].

Spartana: How did you get the application approved?

Chivers: You have to create a developer account, which costs $100 a year. Then I uploaded my app to Apple, and they have a team of people who approve or disapprove the apps they receive. That [process] takes about a week.

Spartana: How did you learn to make the application, and how long did the process take you?

Chivers: I used the tutorial on Apple's website. It took me a while. I did several other apps before this that all failed, so it probably took me a year and a half to actually get to doing Zadachi, which has succeeded.

Spartana: Have you tried making any other programs?

Chivers: I have tried making other ones but I gave up on all of them because I wasn't experienced enough with the program. One of them was called WordFerret, and I got stuck and gave up. It was a word game in which you scrambled letters and made words. It wasn't very original, although I suppose Zadachi isn't very original either.

Spartana: How did you come up with the name?

Chivers: My friend Andrew Crawford (10) came up with it. In Russian, it means "tasks."

Spartana: How much of the profits will you get?

Chivers: I get 70% of all the money the app makes.

Spartana: Do you plan to make any other apps?

Chivers: Yes, I plan to make other apps, but I don't have any ideas for any currently. Right now I'm working on an iPad version of Zadachi.

Spartana: How lucrative is the business of making an app?

Civers: It's very lucrative; it is the most lucrative business ever because there are lots of people with iPhones and iPods who want to download apps for them.

Spartana: Why should people buy your app?

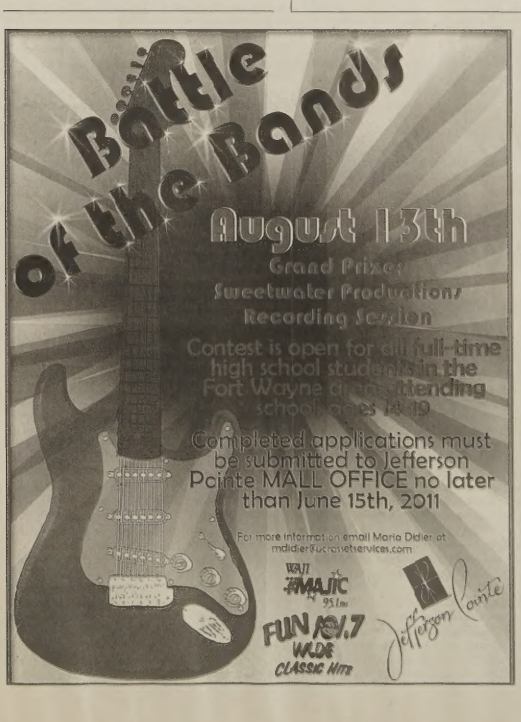
Chivers: Because it gets things done and keeps them organized in your pocket. Instead of making a bunch of lists, it's right there.

iTunes Store
Top 10 Apps

US

1. **Angry Birds** Clickgamer.com
2. **Cut the Rope** Chillingo Ltd
3. **Angry Birds Halloween** Rovio Mobile Ltd.
4. **Talking Rex the Dinosaur** Outfit 7
5. **Fruit Ninja** Halfbrick Studios
6. **America's Election HQ** FOX News Digital
7. **Cartoon Wars 2: Heros** BLUE GNC
8. **Splinter Cell Conviction** Gameloft
9. **Sons of Anarchy** Fox Mobile Entertainment, Inc.
10. **Doodle Jump** BE WARNED: Insanely Addictive!

PHOTO COURTESY ROVIO.COM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Sweetwater Productions
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Contest is open for all full-time high school students in the Fort Wayne area attending school grades 9-12
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Luke Labas (10) to travel overseas for World Games in Belfast Ireland

BY AARIKA MANKEY
Writer

Not many high school students have to opportunity or skill to play a sport in an international level. However, Luke Labas (10) has been selected to compete as a member of the National Boccia Ball Team at the World Games in Belfast, Ireland. The games will take place this August and the opportunity could possibly even lead to a spot on the 2016 Paralympic Games.

Boccia Ball is a sport designed specifically for individuals with motor disabilities to showcase their athleticism. It is an adopted form of bocce ball in which players through leather balls on a court toward a jack. Points are awarded based on how close players can get their ball to the jack.

Labas has been involved with boccia ball for one year now, and he has progressed quickly in the sport. He has already won competitions, which has got him noticed by coaches at the national level. The chance to travel overseas and compete internationally is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"I am really excited to travel to Ireland and compete, as this will be my first time overseas," Labas said. "It is such an honor to be able to play and represent my country. It will be exciting to be able to play alongside my teammates and a crowd of a couple thousand people."

Living with a disability brings challenges. Labas has a condition known as cerebral palsy, affecting his mobility, muscle tone and coordination. While the condition is not progressive, cerebral palsy causes Labas to require a wheelchair at all times which increases his dependency on others. While Labas asserts that he struggles with this requirement, it has taught him valuable life skills.

"I've learned much about patience and communication, but definitely the need for extra patience," Labas said.

Turnstone Center, an organization that empowers disabled children and adults, has been an outlet for Labas since the age of five. Turnstone offers recreation and competitive sports and activities for wheelchair bound people who would otherwise not be able to compete in sports. Through this organization, Labas began his journey with boccia ball. The opportunity for Labas to compete on an international scale also gives him a unique opportunity to meet people from around the world.

"The opportunity is a great social outlet for Luke. What an honor for our school and for Luke to be able to compete internationally," Deb Cosbey, mild disabilities teacher, said.

At the World Games in August this summer, 30 countries will be competing for the gold.

"I am one of the youngest players out there, so the idea of competing is quite overwhelming, but I still want to prove that I deserve the opportunity," Labas said.

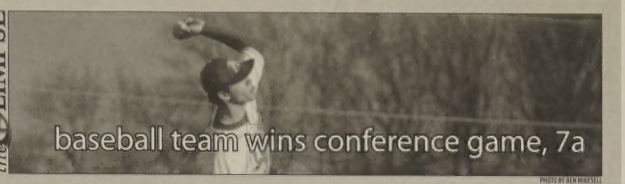
Labas has competed in several different competitions for his boccia ball team in the past; however the 2011 World Games in Belfast, Ireland stands tall as one of the his greatest athletic opportunities. With the ambitious goal of winning the gold this year, Labas could potentially earn a spot five years from now at the Paralympic Games in 2016.

Practice makes perfect, and as Labas practices and improves in preparation for the competition, his chances to perfect his abilities and return home with a gold medal only become more viable.

"Even though it has been rough, I have learned to accept who I am and deal with it. It's the same with every situation; you have to take what you've got and run with it," Labas said.

SPORTS

the GLIMPSE



baseball team wins conference game, 7a

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Boys' golf team wins early matches with new roster

Spartans defeat Concordia, Dekalb; competition within team leads to improvements

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Associate Sports Editor

Three matches into the season, the boys' golf Three matches into the season, the boys' golf team has proved itself to be a dominant force in the NHC Conference. While the Spartans have consistently produced competitive teams, the talent and focus of this year's team could make it even more successful than recent years.

This year, the Spartans have beaten Dekalb High School and Concordia Lutheran High School, but lost to Warsaw High School in nine-hole matches. Against both Concordia and Dekalb, Jon Finley (12) placed first.

The Spartans have also competed in two invitationals, the Spring Preview and the Warsaw Invitational, where they finished third and second, respectively. In the Spring Preview, Tom Kocks (12) was one of the top 10 finishers. At the Warsaw Invitational, both Finley and Kocks placed in the top five.

"These matches have proved that we can post good numbers and play with anybody," Kocks said.

Although no official captains have been acknowledged, Finley and Kocks have assumed leadership roles within the team. Finley competed at state last year, and hopes to return this year. Kocks finished first at the sectional championship last year, but unfortunately did not reach the state competition. These successful runs in the postseason provide both athletes with valuable experience. By both voice and example, Finley and Kocks plan to lead the team to a successful season.

> "We help each other out and compete in practice so we can be more confident going into matches."
>
> **ERIC MEYERS (12)**
> *Varsity Golfer*

While Finley and Kocks have become familiar with high-stakes competition, many athletes are experiencing varsity competition for the first time. The lack of experience on the golf team has the potential to be it's weakness. As opposed to being intimidated, the newer players have utilized the lack of experience as a motive to push themselves harder.

With a new roster, this year's team has separated itself from last year's team in many ways. Primarily, this year's team has a greater focus and work ethic. A varsity roster has five spots, but the Spartans have six golfers who are able to compete at the varsity level. Therefore, the athletes are pushing themselves at every practice and match to secure a position on the varsity roster.

Finley, Kocks, and Tanner Smith (12) have all earned stable spots on the varsity roster. Eric O'Shea (12), Eric Myers (12) and Kyle Davis (11) have been rotating in and out of the line-up.

"We help each other out and compete in practice so we can be more confident going into matches," Myers said.

Another cause of the increased work ethic is a greater determination to succeed. Prior to the season, the boys decided their goals would include finishing first in the NHC Conference, and advancing to the state competition as a team. For a whole team to advance to the state match, it has to place in the top three at both the sectional and regional championships.

Though one's performance may enable them to advance to state individually, the admittance of a whole team to the state championship holds a special significance. In order to advance to state as a team, each member of the team must perform exceptionally. The need for every player to execute has created a team-oriented atmosphere on the golf team.

"Having the whole team behind you is something special, especially at the state finals," Finley said.

To achieve their goal of finishing first in the NHC Conference, the players are focused on beating Norwell High School, a continuous rival through the years. Norwell finished first in the NHC Conference Championship last year, followed by Carroll High School in second place. The Spartans finished third last year, however, they believe their focused mentality will enable them to compete for the title.

"The practice tone this season has been much more focused and driven," Finley said. "The improvements will come each day by keeping up the drive to succeed.

As the team reaches the height of the regular season, it appears to be on track with its goals. If the work ethic that the athletes have exerted continues, there seems to be no boundaries for the team's success.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

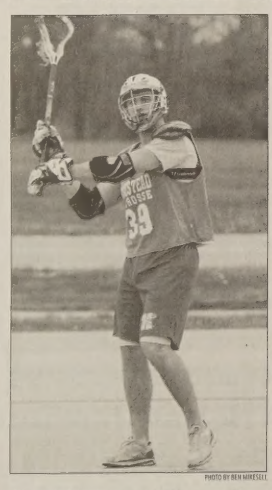


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Above: John Belote works with Rikky Stevens (9). Below: Dru Durnell (12) throws a pass during a practice in the Freshmen Academy parking lot.

Boys' lacrosse team shows improvement after early season victories

BY LOGAN JOHNSON
Writer

Since its debut in 2005, the boys' lacrosse team's membership, as well as competitiveness, has grown significantly. After spring break, the lacrosse team has been focusing on practice, but has competed against Heritage Christian and had their home season opener against Concord. With strong team, leadership and high scoring are the expectations for the Spartans, this year.

The first game was a devastating loss to Heritage Christian. People considered Heritage a weaker team and the numbers agreed. Boasting 10.2 points per game on average, the Spartans had the upper hand against Heritage's 8.6 points per game. At the start of the game, Heritage came out ready to play, taking a 9-3 lead. This forced the Spartans into a tough position.

"We need to improve upon our consistency," Michael Sorenson (12), a team captain, said. "We started out slow, but we got our stuff together and fell just short of the win."

With a positive team attitude, the Spartans outscored Heritage 7-4 in the second half, but they could not prevent a 13-10 defeat. The Spartans' focus heading into the second half gave them the power to win but not enough time.

"We've been focusing on finishing," Coach John Belote said. The practice surely paid off, because one thing that the Spartans had no trouble doing was scoring.

As the season progresses, the team needs to come out and fight from the start in order to compete with the high-caliber teams in the state.

> "We are constantly improving skills two and a half hours every day during the week."
>
> **LONN MEYER (12)**
> *Varsity Lacrosse Attack*

"We are constantly improving skills two and half hours every day during the week," Lonn Meyer (12) said.

Heading into the game against Concord, the Spartans knew they would have an aggressive game plan. After a disappointing defeat, they were determined not to allow losing to become a recurring result.

From the start of the game, the Spartans held nothing back against Concord. With a chip on their shoulder from the previous match-up, the Spartans came into the game with no mercy.

Concord posted a 5-5 regular season record entering the match and averaged four points per game. Homestead brought the heat and shut out Concord 18-0; offensive attacker Nick Rahn (12) lead the team with six goals and two assists.

"Concord made a lot of mistakes and we capitalized on them," Rahn said.

As a team, the Spartans executed their goals perfectly and drove a weak Concord team away easily. After delivering such a crushing blow to their opponent, the Spartan's game highlights were featured on "News 25" and the explosive victory led the team to be named "Fort Wayne Orthopedic's Team of the Week".

After completing these two games, Homestead currently stands on a record of 5-5, and is ranked twelfth in the state.

Being ranked second amongst the local teams, the Spartans are anxious to live up to their preseason expectations.

Tonight, the team travels to Westfield and will play away at Center Grove tomorrow. As the Spartans head into their games they have moved their focus and changed their game plan.

"We are concentrating more on the athletic aspect of our game rather than our stick skills," Meyer said.

With a strong game plan and hard practices all week, the Spartans are ready to prove to everyone that they deserve to be the team of the week.

Varsity girls' tennis team sets sights towards state championship

Team returns to previous seasons' successes with consecutive victories against local rivals

BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Writer

With an impressive beginning to the season, the girls' tennis team is on track to return to their previous successes. The team has begun the season with three straight victories which has made a strong statement as to what they are capable of doing this year.

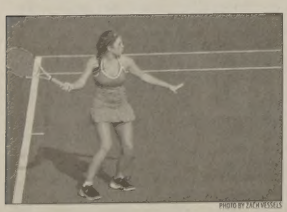


PHOTO BY ZACH VESSELS

Laura Emberger (12) prepares to return a shot during the match against Concordia on April 14.

Coming off an impressive season last year in which they won a sectional and regional title, the girls are focusing on building off of last year's success.

"We have a couple of tough matches ahead of us but if we play to the best of our ability, we should come out on top," Laura Emberger (12) said. There are several girls on the team with great experience such as Emberger, but there are also girls like Kelsey Vessels (10) who have shown surprising talent despite their age

"Only losing one senior didn't affect us too much," Vessels said.

With all the talent and experience on the team, it may seem like this team is unstoppable, but that is not the case. The team can see the competition they are up against and know they need to play better than they did last year in order to succeed.

"This year, teams like [Bishop] Dwenger and Carroll have really stepped up their game," Emberger said.

"On a one to 10 scale [they] are a seven or eight," head coach Jim Shull said.

Therefore, they may not be as dominant as they have in past years, but they may do better than last year. Last year, the team dominated the court at sectionals and regionals, but came up short at semi-state and failed to qualify for the IHSAA state tournament. However, Macy Johnson (11) did qualify individually to compete at the state tournament.

The goal to reach state is simple, but a simple goal can be a lot harder than it seems. In order to make it to state, they have to make it past many good teams such as Dwenger and Carroll, who have the same goal. In order to make it to state, they have to finish the semi-state tournament in the top eight. Yet, the team remains optimistic and confident about the season.

"This season, I (along with the rest of the team) see us making it as far as we did last year by getting the sectional and regional titles with one exception," Emberger said. "We will make it to semi-state, win, and go to the state tournament."

The notion of making it to the state tournament is a goal of every member of the tennis team.

As their Coach Jim Shull has witnessed, over the past 22 years, the girls' tennis team has made it to state 11 times, and has finished in second at state five different times. With so much success in years past, it is highly possible that the team can return to the tournament.

They have jumped to a great early start, as they are undefeated heading into a much anticipated match with Bishop Dwenger tonight. Emberger described it as "one of [their] biggest and toughest matches for the season."

The team will stay busy in the upcoming weeks with matches against Columbia City, Warsaw and Canterbury. With all of the upcoming tough competition, it was good for them to begin with three excellent victories. Their fast start gives them great momentum to take on tougher teams.

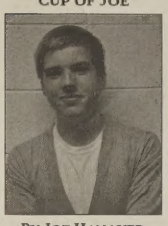
"We need to play our best and keep good composure and momentum," Emberger said.

Bulls give Pacers fans something to cheer about

Riddle me this one, Indiana. Why do you lend your hearts out to nearly every winning team, but leave one particular team standing in the cold? We sang praise for the Colts as they finished their season at 10-6, their worst since 2002. We seemingly forgot about the Butler Bulldogs until they reached two consecutive National Championships. But strangely enough, despite their playoff appearance this season, Indiana has given the Pacers the cold shoulder in every way possible.

There isn't one reason to blame the lack of a bandwagon gathering for the Pacers on. I attribute it to several reasons. They lack a popular figurehead that can be noticed by the general audience. By the grace of God himself, they snuck into the playoffs with an appalling record of 37-45. The face of their team is... wait, let me look this one up really quick.

CUP OF JOE



BY JOE HANAUER
Executive Editor

Let me tell you a little bit about Indiana's only professional basketball team. They're currently ranked 13th in the league for points scored per game, and rank 17th in points allowed. Their first round pick in the draft last year was a guy with two first names, Paul George. The last superstar to come through the franchise was Reggie Miller (retired in 2005). And thankfully, they were able to trade Ron "Ron Ron" Artest, and he eventually was able to find a home in a city crazier than the man himself. This past January, the front office relieved head coach Jim O'Brien of his duties, replacing him with assistant coach Frank Vogel. In the last few weeks of the season, they were able to squeak by the Milwaukee Bucks (35-47) and secure the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference. The Indiana Pacers, ladies and gentlemen.

So what exactly is it about the Pacers that left Indiana-ites careless about the outcome of the Division Championship? The combination of a shaky Pacers fan base and the nightly jaw-dropping performances by Bulls point guard Derek Rose left Hoosier natives perplexed.

Unfortunately for the Pacers, their first round match against the Bulls gave Pacers fans every reason to root against their beloved sub-.500 team.

A) If the Pacers would've somehow managed to win the series, it would've made the Eastern Conference Finals, allowing the advance to the NBA finals to be that much easier for the always-rivaled Miami Heat.

B) Losing the first round of the playoffs would've taken the MVP spotlight off of Derek Rose, and let's be honest, do we really want to see anyone else win?

C) The Bulls are a more exciting team than the Pacers. Plain and simple.

Having one reason to root against a team from your own state isn't good, three is just ridiculous.

That still doesn't account for the lack of the bandwagon factor that the Pacers could never quite grasp.

The team with a season most comparable to theirs, Butler, managed to gain fan support heading into the pinnacle of their season. They play a similar style to the Pacers, heck, Hinkle Fieldhouse and Conseco Fieldhouse are 17 minutes away from each other (and 18 minutes apart if you take I-65 South instead of Meridian Street, it's a tough decision, I know).

> "The Larry Bird Face is a sullen look that represents the morale of the entire Pacer's organization."
>
> **JOE HANAUER**
> *Executive Editor*

What the Bulldogs had that the Pacers never had were underlying stories that made them look like underdogs no matter who they faced.

Clumsiness and a killer mustache were some of Matt Howard's greatest features. And Brad Stevens was so young that he could've suited up at shooting guard and you wouldn't have even noticed.

Butler could've played IPFW and had fans doubting them during the pre-game commentary. Butler had a margin of victory of 3.25 points in the first four games of the NCAA Tournament. That, my friends, is exciting basketball.

As I said earlier, the lack of a Pacers fan base can be attributed to several factors. I believe the Pacers franchise and fan base can be summarized and represented by the look on the face of one man.

He's the President of Operations for the Pacers, sometimes better known as the "Hick from French Lick" or simply, "Larry Legend".

I like to call it, The Larry Bird Face. Shown by TNT roughly five to eight times a game, The Larry Bird Face is a sullen look that represents the morale of the entire Pacers organization. It understands that the glory days are over, and times are only going to get tougher from this point on. The Larry Bird Face is one that's silently waiting for the Pacers to land a superstar in the lottery draft. It's a Face that's suffered through years of mediocrity, and has to deal with weak trash talk like Roy Hibbert's "There's no way they're going to sweep us."

If I haven't made it clear enough by now, the Pacers lack a strong fan base, and needed more than just a miracle to stop the sweep from the Bulls. They barely give themselves reason to be relevant in the NBA, let alone their own home state.

And while we jump on the bandwagon for every other sports team within our state's borders, we leave them still standing there, out in the cold.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me present the Indiana Pacers.

Girls' track team optimistic about season

Team retains determined attitude despite injury, inexperience

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Associate Sports Editor

As the girls' track season unfolds, the results have not been in accordance with the team's goals. Although their current situation is not ideal, the Spartans are determined to turn their season around.

The first meet the team participated in was against Huntington North, in which the team unfortunately placed last. The team attributes the unfortunate defeat to early anxieties, and is currently building confidence as the season ensues.

However, as the meets have continued, the progress of the team has remained stagnant. At the following meet against Columbia City and the Penn Relays meet, the team failed to finish where it had aimed for.

Several factors can be identified that have caused the negative results. For instance, the team recently experienced the detrimental losses of two runners, Emily Toennies ('13), and Ari Nelson (10). Toennies moved away from Indiana prior to the track season. Recently, Nelson broke a bone in her foot, and the injury may require surgery to repair it. Moreover, the team graduated a plethora of seniors that impacted the team greatly last year.

"It's not how I planned my track season to turn out, since I've worked so hard to be where I am," Nelson said. "But, I only think positively and hope for the best when I return."

While the losses have posed lethal to the team's goals, each athlete is currently working diligently to improve. Amy Barnes, the girls' varsity track coach, holds each athlete accountable for her improvement.

Barnes provides the runners with constant feedback, and is always looking for ways to help the Spartans better themselves. The team, as a whole, expects each athlete to work hard, and push themselves as hard as they can.

"As a team we're working really well together and we hope to put together individual achievements to improve as a team," Kati Vail (12), the team captain, said.

Aside from Vail, the team has four other seniors: Karen Trexler (12), Kayla Patterson (12), Ashley Griffith (12) and Marisa Magana (12). Each senior utilizes her experience to work with the underclassmen to prepare them for varsity competition.

The team's Senior Night, scheduled for the meet against East Noble, was unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather.

At the upcoming meet, the Lime City Relays, the Spartans are hoping to prove themselves as a dominant force.

If the athletes continue to push themselves hard, their efforts put forth each practice are surely expected to pay off during competition.

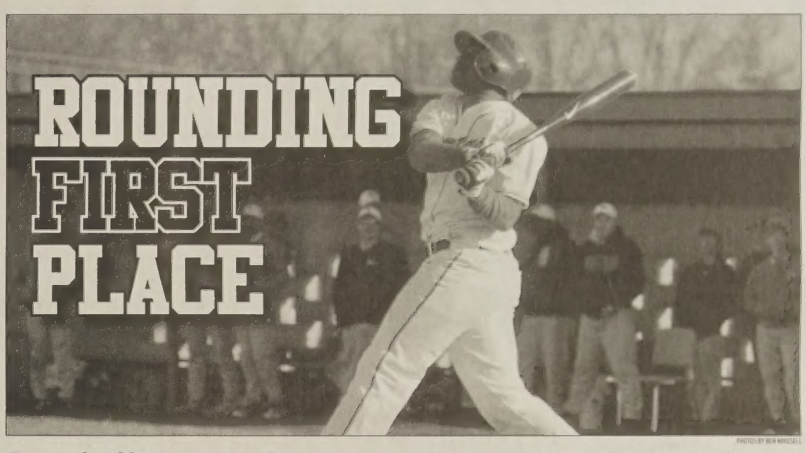


PHOTO BY BEN MARCELL

Baseball team collects momentum as season continues

BY JACOB COOK
Writer

The boys' baseball team is coming off of a huge win over opponent and rival East Noble, and is carrying its momentum into the second week of conference play next week. Strong performances from upperclassmen have fueled multiple victories over state-ranked opponents and a nationally ranked opponent.

The team's win over Huntington North on April 21 has provided great motivation for the team to keep working hard.

"It's great to win against them," Evan Rhoades (12) said. "Beating [Huntington North] is always a big game for us as they are a rival, and a sectional opponent."

Rhoades, who did not pitch against Huntington North, had shed several positive comments on second-in-line pitcher Brandon Soat (11).

"Soat had a great game and battled hard like he always does," Rhoades said.

The game came down to the final inning, and was won with a walk-off two-run hit. Andre Jernigan (11) hit a line-drive, which enabled Austin Plasterer (11) to gain a tag-up run and win the game for the team. Catcher and outfielder Cody Appenzeller (12) was also very satisfied with the victory.

"It's a great win," Appenzeller said. "It's a great way to go into our conference season."

While the team is not yet ranked in the state, they have several victories over high-caliber teams. Boasting an overall record of 8-2, the team has claimed victories over both state and nationally-ranked ball teams. Their victory over number four ranked Noblesville set a tone for the entire season, and further propelled them to a victory over Cincinnati Moelar, which is ranked twenty-second in the nation.

> "If we keep our focus, it'll be hard for us to lose in the end."
>
> **EVAN RHOADES (12)**
> *Varsity Pitcher*

As far as expectations go, the team will not be content with any losses. Beginning conference play this week against East Noble, the team is eyeing another conference title for the Northeast Hoosier Conference. Thus far, the team's typical game plan has brought them great success.

"We're not planning on changing it one bit," Appenzeller said. "It's done us well, and we're focused on a conference title."

The focus of the team has been on the fundamentals of baseball, which has led to key victories.

"It's all about making the routine plays and keeping ourselves in the game," Rhoades said. "If we keep our focus, it'll be hard for us to lose in the end."

Last year, the team's season ended in the first round of their regional tournament against Kokomo, who would eventually lose to the future state champion Carroll High School. The Spartans won both their conference and sectional titles, and look to repeat the same successes this year.

Ultimately, the team feels that it has the talent and drive, as a team, to make it farther than last year's team.

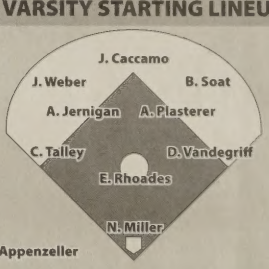
"We really do have a shot of going somewhere this year," Rhoades said. "We're that Cinderella team right now and we're knocking off state ranked opponents from behind, and making a name for ourselves."

The team's success so far can be attributed to teamwork, senior leadership and an overall desire to be the best that they can be.

While they are still pushing for a state ranking, they began their NHC season this week looking to not only go undefeated, but win another NHC title.

"It's going to play out to be a big year for us," Rhoades said. "It's a matter of who wants it most, and I think it's going to be us in the end."

2011 VARSITY STARTING LINEUP



DH: C. Appenzeller

Top: Andre Jernigan (11) watches the ball fly off of his bat. Above: Carl Talley (12) lays out for a ground ball during the game against South Side. Talley was voted the Player of the Week by the WOWO radio station.

Boys' track team perseveres through early adversity

Slow start to season caused by injury; team continues to improve

BY CONNOR O'HARA
Writer

The boys' track team has finished all of their pre-season invitationals and is well into the first part of their regular season competitions. So far, the Spartans have a regular season record of 1-2, and while this may not exactly be where the runners and field event participants wish to be, the team remains optimistic about the remaining portion of their season.

In the pre-season events this year, the boys performed well at all the events in which they participated. In the Indiana Runner Distance Classic, the Spartans had an eighth place finish as Jordan Gearhart (12) ran the 800 meter run in 2:06.21. Also, finishing in fourth place was Logan Kimmel (12) with a time of 2:09.19. In the HSR Finals, Ryan Hire (12) finished the 55m hurdles with a time of 7.87 seconds.

The Spartans certainly have the talent and the ability to perform to the best of their ability this year in the track portion of the meets, as well as in the field events. Kyle O'Brien (11) is one of the best and most skilled long jumpers for the Spartans.

"My goals this year are to jump twenty-three feet, break a school record, compete in nationals, and place in the top three in the state," O'Brien said.

O'Brien suffered an injury earlier in the year, and whether or not he would be able to jump this year for Homestead was left completely up in the air. Thankfully for the team, O'Brien made a full recovery and is now performing at an excellent level; however, other runners have not been as lucky.

"The team has not been starting a lot of people due to injury," O'Brien said. "There are a lot of varsity players who are not able to participate because of injury."

Because of the injury, underclassmen have been forced to make an impact on the varsity team. With the leadership of the experienced seniors, the transition for most underclassmen has been generally smooth. As the season begins to unfold, it's common knowledge amongst the team members that once again their main competition this year will be the Carroll Chargers. For a number of years in the past, Carroll has been Homestead's main competition in the conference match up.

With the current focus the Spartans have developed, it surely is possible.

PHOTO BY LAUREN OLSON

Blake Harris (10) passes an opponent from South Side in the mile run.

MAY DAZE

By Dana Hart and Molly Zweig
Writer and Executive Editor

May blooms as the flowers do after April showers, along with many holidays to celebrate spring's arrival. Mothers and veterans have their own special days for recognition, but the public may be unaware of other reasons to celebrate the month of May. Take time to commemorate lesser-known holidays and rejoice in springtime.

3 LUMPY RUG DAY

One of the most unappreciated items in a house is the lumpy rug--inhabitants stand on it, wipe dirty shoes on it, and spill everything in sight on it. May 3 is the official day to remember and appreciate lumpy rugs everywhere during the tail end of Spring Cleaning. Traditionally, Lumpy Rug Day begins with a ceremonial sharing of story about the rug, like the time glitter was spilled or when the rug tripped everyone in the span of about three minutes. Then, the celebration continues by wishing the lumpy rug well and subsequently replacing it with a new, lump-free rug. Finish the festivities by breaking in the new rug and cherishing the memories of the previous floor covering.

PHOTO FROM WWW.FURNITUREHOMEDESIGN.COM

4 RENEWAL DAY

Daily life often grows dull; therefore, take time to refresh and rejuvenate. Whether relationships with family and friends have dwindled or chores remain undone, step back and reassess time management and priorities. Change daily routines to ensure that put-off errands and activities are accomplished. Make a phone call to the relatives living on the opposite end of the country or pay a visit to a salon for a new haircut. Be sure that the day is full of new promises and bring life back to daily routines.

TO DO:
- ☐ Haircut
- ☐ call aunt lisa
- ☐ organize closet
- ☐ go to spa?
- ☐ time with friends
- ☐ email grandma
- ☐ see movie
- ☐ bike around town

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

6 NO DIET DAY

Society places much pressure on people to maintain a slender appearance. For many, losing or maintaining weight is a lifelong struggle; however, acknowledging and appreciating one's body is crucial for mental health. Re-evaluate weight management or healthy lifestyle goals and take a break from restrictive diets. Indulge in sinful treats - keeping moderation in mind and remember that the body is a temple to be kept healthy yet relaxed. Learning to appreciate the body's natural appearance is the best way to ensure positive self-image.

PHOTOS FROM WWW.FASTFOODCRAGGSTER.COM

8 NO SOCKS DAY

May 8 falls on a Sunday this year, which is a great thing for the classmates of any participant, smelly feet or otherwise, in No Socks Day. The event is described as a day to let toes breath and to be free from the confines of any form of sock. While spending the day without socks may sound repulsive to some, No Socks Day is another opportunity to be green and to help the environment, as no socks means less laundry to do. Any participants in this holiday are asked to wash their feet prior to May 8, but any form of foot adornment is purely optional.

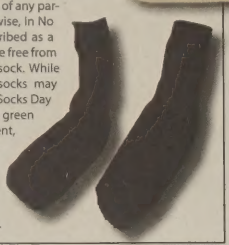


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

11 SCHOOL NURSE'S DAY

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Take the day to acknowledge the staff in the nurses' office and their efforts to maintain Homestead's health and well-being. In distributing medications and treating ill-stricken students, nurses are the unsung heroes of Homestead. The unwavering sincerity of the nurses never fails, no matter the direness of the situation. Stop by the nurses' office between classes and congratulate the staff on a job well done. Make sure to acknowledge the hard work the nurses do to keep the halls of Homestead as sanitary as possible.

12 FATIGUE SYNDROME DAY

Life is not always thrilling; everyday stress often brings exhaustion. Whether the hassles of life keep people lying awake at night or insomnia is in the gene pool, take time to recognize and correct sleep issues. Set aside a half hour for a nap or siesta in the afternoon, or take a vacation day altogether. Weather permitting, take a stroll around the neighborhood or try yoga before bed to relax and free the mind. Release the stresses of life and enjoy Earth's natural beauty.

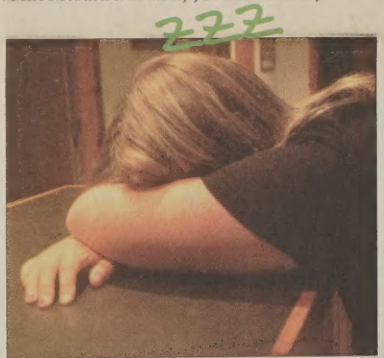


PHOTO BY BETH HUBER

FRIDAY the 13th

The superstitions come alive once more on the infamous Friday that comes but three times a year. Throughout history, the number 13 is called incomplete; any grouping of 13 often results in misfortune. Those who firmly believe in phobias should be cautious when in public. Avoid ladders and black cats, and attempt not to break reflective objects. Any lucky charm will prove useful to ward off bad luck - keep a spare four-leaf clover or rabbits' foot nearby. It's also a great day to watch Friday the 13th, visit a cemetery or bring out the Ouija board for a fun night with friends.

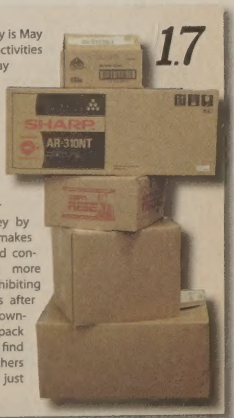
16 LOVE A TREE DAY

Nature lovers and all others can express their love for nature by taking time to appreciate Earth's beauty. Trees provide oxygen and natural shade for all creatures; therefore, spend some time trimming and watering trees in your backyard. Spend time weeding trees in the front and back yards. In light of the nearby Mothet's Day, help mothers care for plants and trees around the house as a labor of love.

PHOTOS FROM WWW.EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

17 PACK RAT DAY

Officially, Pack Rat Day is May 17, but for many, the activities typically done on this day may be daily habits. To celebrate, participants are asked to not clean, organize, or even take out the trash--the goal is to not discard any sort of item at all. Pack Rat Day may be getting a larger number of participants; a survey by Smead, a company that makes organizing products and containers, reported that more people than ever are exhibiting pack rat-like tendencies after the recent economic downturn. For the perennial pack rat, May 17 is the day to find common ground with others and put off cleaning for just one more day.



20 NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY

The League of Wheelmen established National Bike to Work Day in 1880 as a way to mark the arrival of warmer weather and the coming of summer. In the current state of the economy and the increasing oil prices, giving cars a rest and biking will be especially beneficial. Re-grease the wheels on an old Schwinn and enjoy the sunshine and the fresh breeze while riding. Be sure to also remember the proper bike safety and rules of the road.

PHOTO FROM WWW.THISNEXT.COM

BE A millionaire DAY

While a million seems like a big number, it's not necessarily an unattainable financial feat with a little advance planning. Use Be a Millionaire Day on May 20 to start planning for a wealthy future. While celebrating by actually being a millionaire is out of the question for students, it's a good day to buy a lottery ticket and hope it's lucky. With a little money, consider purchasing bonds or starting a savings account; with interest, money saved now can be worth triple or more within twenty years. Take time to look for a job or start befriending a wealthy relative. If all else fails, find some close friends and break out the Monopoly money and count the colorful millions.

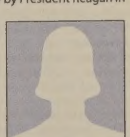
PHOTO FROM WWW.THETRUTHGROUP.COM

21 NATIONAL MEMO DAY

How often do people forget important details because they do not record them in the first place? Grab Sticky Notes and a pen and write down anything worth remembering. Pay close attention in class or work and record any and all important details to ensure success. Out of ten billion neurons in the human brain, only a small fraction has the capacity for memory; do not fall into the habit of overloading the memory. Do not fall guilty to forgetting a due date or assignment because of a lack of paper and pen.

25 NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

The first reported missing child was in 1979, followed by the declaration of National Missing Children's Day by President Reagan in 1983. The U.S. Department of Justice reports over 50,000 child victims of non-family abductions each year. Remember those who have suffered from the loss of children and enforce child safety. Volunteer to watch the neighbors' children and watch closely for suspicious activity on the streets. Establish a plan of action with family about what to do in the event of child abduction or create photo identification kits to ensure safety.



IF FOUND CALL 1-800-LOSTKID

28 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DAY

Amnesty International, an organization that champions human rights and works with Genocide Intervention Network, holds its awareness day on May 28. Amnesty International is comparable to a functioning United Nations. The group has been especially busy lately working to ensure safety for inhabitants of the many nations facing protests and government changes. "They want to protect the rights of all humans everywhere," Mary Boyne, member of STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur), said. No official celebrations are planned in the area for the event; however, May 28 is the perfect time to learn about Amnesty's plethora of focus areas, like genocide prevention, human rights exploitation and freedom of expression, from its website, amnesty.org.

31 SAVE YOUR HEARING DAY

The invention of the iPod, MP3 player, stereo and radio has increased hearing loss dramatically. Adolescents and young adults are especially prone to hearing damage due to music devices, making them the highest at-risk group for hearing loss in the modern day. Give iPods and car stereos a break and, instead, enjoy the sounds of nature and daily conversation. Talk to an ear doctor-oto-laryngologist-for information on ear health and preventing hearing loss. Make a family-wide effort to take ear health seriously and to take preventative measures against ear damage.